THE EXAMINER.

No. 758. SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1822.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. POPE.

No. 742.

EXECUTIONS FOR FORGERY.

WE had hoped that the public feeling would not have been again outraged by more executions for forgery; but, as our readers will see, another victim was on Wednesday sacrificed to a system, which so many eminent persons, of all ranks and parties, have long agreed to consider as equally impolitic, inhuman, and unjust.

John Lomas, the youth just cut off at the early age of 19, was, we understand, one of eleven children; and his parents being in indifferent circumstance, he was unfortunately never placed in a situation by which he could gain an honest livelihood. The consequence was, that, at a period of extreme distress, he fell into the hands of some of those desperate persons, who are now enabled to forge and deal in bank-notes, chiefly by reason of the ease with which such notes can be imitated.

Considerable exertions have been made to save the life of this ill-fated lad. The Bank Directors have been earnestly petitioned; and one of the petitions was signed by 27 individuals, of whom 20 are Members of Parliament, who were all anxious to save him from the last dreadful penalty, from a conviction that the punishment of death ought in no case to be awarded to the crime of forgery. But it was in vain: the Bank Directors were inexorable; and another death for forgery is added to the long, and melancholy, and, we must say, disgraceful list.

The conduct of most Public Bodies in these corrupt times is bad enough; but the conduct of the Government Bank would not be justly characterized by ordinary terms of reproach. Where the lives and morals of one class of the people, and the property of another, are concerned, the feelings of justice and humanity are roused by a systematic course of cold-blooded apathy in regard to the former, and of wilful perversity in relation to the latter. Let the public reflect for an instant on the enormous, not to say scandalous, advantages possessed by the Bank of England;—their lucrative monopoly, the Restriction in their favour, and their prodigious power over monied transactions. The consequences of the Bank Restriction have, as we all know, been fatal enough to this country; but who ever before heard of a more insolent oppression, than that the people, besides being compelled to take certain notes *for the benefit of the Bank Monopoly*, should also be subjected to the heavy loss attendant on the easy forgery of notes worse executed than the paper of the poorest country bank? Yet this unheard-of act of insolent power, though it continually operated to the injury of industrious tradesmen, was nothing to the wickedness of first tempting the poor to forge those notes, and then inflicting on them, in a partial and unequal manner, a cruel and disproportionate punishment. Nevertheless, for more than 20 years, in spite of the cries of outraged humanity, in spite of the monthly spectacle of the sacrifice of human victims, in spite of the complaints of plundered industry, the proposals of artists and men of science, and the remonstrances of all men whose minds are shocked at such needless blood-shed and such perverted law,—the Bank Directors have gone on, in their sullenness and apathy, without a single improvement in their miserable note!

Within these few years, goaded to it by the continued demands made in Parliament and elsewhere, there has been some pretence of stirring in this matter. We say *pretence*, because our common sense tells us, that had there been any real heartiness on the part of the Bank, we should long ago have seen the beneficial result. We *know*, however, that years back, there were not wanting ingenious men, who offered to the Bank the results of their study and talent, and that the Bank too often treated such proposals with repulsive coldness. The Bank engravers (if we may call them such) were always consulted, and naturally threw all difficulties in the way of plans, which, if adopted, might have lost them their situations. It was a common practice, when a specimen of a new note was offered, to employ clever artists to make an imitation, which, if tolerably like the original, was the final answer to the person offering it. As if the poor creatures who imitate the existing note, could execute plates in the manner of our first-rate artists! And thus proceeded the Bank of England, pocketing the enormous profits of its monopoly, not only refusing to bear any of the loss that the public suffered for its sole benefit, not only persisting in making *no exertions* even to provide a decent security against forgery, but actually treating all the efforts of individuals to produce a better note as attempts to force upon them something injurious to their own interest!

And now, after the public have been alternately excited and disappointed, month after month, year after year, with the promise of a beautiful and difficult note, till everybody was utterly worn out and disgusted, and the hangings were going on as usual,—now we are told there is little or no hope of success—that many plans have been tried—that thousands of pounds have been spent by the Bank—that even many notes were printed on a new plan, but afterwards laid aside as useless, &c. People may believe as much or as little of this as they please: for our own part, judging from experience, all protestations and pretences from the Bank "pass by us as the idle wind which we regard not." The secret of the whole business was let out some time back in Parliament by Mr. MANNING, a Bank Director. We do not remember his words, but he said in substance, that "as the Bank could not hitherto get an inimitable note, it was of no use to adopt any other." A sentence more ignorant, or more monstrous than this, was never uttered even in that House. So the hangings and the plunderings are to go on, because the Bank cannot find an *inimitable* note! Because no man can produce a note which the cleverest artists cannot imitate, therefore a note is to be still used, which any writing engraver can forge. Because you cannot put a stop to forgery altogether, therefore you ought not to do away with it in part! Because you cannot save the lives of a 100 men, it is therefore absurd to save the lives of 50 or 80! If

Mr. MANNING did really utter the words imputed to him, and if he faithfully interpreted the sentiments of the Bank Directors, a more obstinately stupid or wicked set were never exposed to popular execration.

A small pamphlet was lately published on this subject by Mr. ROBERTSON, in which he discusses the general merits of the plans submitted to the Bank, and makes it clear, to our minds, that the plan which avails itself of the powers of the most eminent artists in *all* branches, and perpetuates their united efforts by the steel-plates of Messrs. PERKINS and Co. and other inventors, would cut up forgery in a most important extent. The Bank, we believe, did so far entertain the invention of Messrs. APPLEGATH and COOPER, as to erect machinery, and to strike off some millions of their improved notes. But they were never issued, because it was discovered (what a discovery!) that they were not inimitable,—that is, that they could be imitated by the aid of men of extraordinary talent, and at a very considerable expense!

How the Bank Directors can persist, year after year, in a system which brings so many of their fellow-creatures to the gallows—of all ages and both sexes—is to us astonishing. Some of these Gentlemen are doubtless in private life distinguished for their liberality and humanity; but it should seem that they rarely exhibit these amiable feelings within the walls of the Bank. There they act only as Bank Directors, not as mere men—and notions of interest, however erroneous, appear to be the only ruling considerations in that grand temple of Mammon. But their conduct is to us quite heart-sickening, and we quit it; with a firm persuasion, nevertheless, that it is much too odious to be long persisted in against the united and holy voice of reason, humanity, and justice.

SHEPTON-MALLET PRISON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In your paper of the 9th instant, is a reference to an article in that of the preceding week, in which you had noticed the works at the House of Correction at *Shepton-Mallet*, and which Mr. Hunt, in the extract of a letter from *Ilchester*, addressed to you, represents to be "*one of the very worst Gaols in the Kingdom;*" and that up to a recent period, namely, the Report of the Commissioners (at Ilchester) "*Irons, Chains, and Manacles, were constantly inflicted on the poor Prisoners, without mercy.*"

Now, Sir, with respect to the state of that Prison, I must observe, that Mr. Hunt's opinion is materially at issue with the official reports of the several Committees of County Magistrates,—one of which, consisting of the Earl of Cork, Major-General Bathurst, and many others in the Commission of the Peace, attended by the County Surveyor, on the 26th of March last, recorded their opinions in terms *diametrically* opposed to those of Mr. Hunt:—as did a subsequent Committee, on the 12th of April,—the Hon. Wm. Waldegrave, R.N. in the Chair—which bore testimony, among other facts, to that stated in your paper of the 2nd instant, with reference to the economical and exclusive application, and the highly beneficial result of *Prison-labour*, in erecting a Building, in its present state, containing eleven Courts of Apartments, equal to the accommodation of 300 Prisoners in single beds. The spontaneous testimonies of Magistrates of *different Counties*, who, from time to time, have visited this House of Correction, and entered their observations on the Prison Journal, may likewise be adverted to as directly opposed to the assertion of Mr. Hunt. Nevertheless I must beg to observe, that whatever merit attaches to the reports of the Visiting Magistrates, at the commencement of the works in the year 1817, when the Prison, in its *then actual* state, might have justly sat for its portrait to Mr. Hunt's pencil,—those Magistrates can only participate in credit with Sir John Acland, who, at that period presided in the General Sessions of the County, and whose zealous suggestions and exertions in aiding the prosecution of the works at Shepton, must ever be gratefully remembered by his coadjutors and the County at large.

With respect to the *period* when *Irons* were *discontinued* in that Prison, Mr. Hunt is not in error, though he is disposed to refer the fact to a cause with which it had no connection;—and with reference to their *merciless application*, the Visiting Magistrates of the County Prison of *Shepton* will have some difficulty in being persuaded that such abuses have actually existed in that Prison;—and least of all, to be ascribed to the conduct or disposition of the present Keeper.—And here it may be proper to observe, that in the several Prisons of the County of Somerset, the Keepers, including the periods of the *Quarter Sessions* and *Assizes*, are *absent* from their respective Prisons, at least *six weeks in each year*, during which time the charge and discipline of the Prison devolve upon the senior Turnkey;—but this is not here noticed as conveying any insinuation that such charges as Mr. Hunt has adduced attach to any Officer of the Shepton-Mallet House of Correction;—the Visiting Magistrates, at least, are wholly ignorant of such abuses, and those Magistrates, in general, have been of a description, against whom it will be difficult to substantiate any charge of a dereliction of public duty with reference to their superintendance of that Prison. It may be opportune also to observe, that in a Prison generally comprehending altogether *as large a proportion of Capital Felons as that in the County Gaol*,—amounting, generally, to an aggregate of from 120 to 200 Prisoners,—and, during the four last years, from the state of the new works, in a condition when escapes might be reasonably apprehended,—in such circumstances, it would have been a very ill-understood display of humanity on the part of the Visiting Magistrates, to have urged the Keeper to have discontinued the use of *Irons* at an earlier period:—they were in fact continued while it would have been *unsafe* to have abandoned them. Mr. Hunt, possibly, on this occasion, will not be disposed to admit the latitude of power vested "in every Gaoler" by the *common law*, as recognized by *Dalton*, who lays it down—"that it "seemeth generally, in all cases, where a man is committed "to prison, especially if it be for felony, or upon an execu-"tion, or but for a trespass or other offence, every Gaoler "ought to keep such Prisoner in safe and close custody—"*safe, that he cannot escape;—and close, without conference* "*with others, or intelligence of things abroad.*"—The citation will be found in every edition of *Burn*.—Such, however, have not been the corresponding feelings of the Visiting Magistrates *of any of the County Prisons of Somerset.*

As to the charge respecting my signature to the order above noticed, the fact is, that at the Assizes at *Wells*, in 1820, I had the honour of presiding in the Chair, at the Grand Jury, and those County Magistrates who were Jurors were then summoned to attend the *Visiting Magistrates of Ilchester Gaol*, when the complaints, as stated in the Report of the Commissioners, were heard, and when much discussion took place with respect to the *validity of regulations* which had not been signed by the Judges; but it was not contended by any Magistrate (that I can recollect) that the order proposed for signature was unreasonable, under the circumstances which were urged by the Visiting Magistrates in support of it.—The late Mr. Drake, a very valuable and able Magistrate (since deceased) principally commented upon the details of circumstances. The late High Sheriff (Mr. Hanning) was present, not having then commenced his office. Mr. Hanning's signature appears with the other Magistrates, which circumstance is here mentioned, as that Magistrate's general conduct towards Mr. Hunt has been noticed, by his friends, as being marked with much indulgence. I had myself actually left the room without putting my signature to the renewed order, but was called back for that purpose. I make no comment upon the motives assigned by the Visiting Magistrates for urging the confirmation of the prior order; the documents are before the public. The order granted permission to *Mr. Hunt* and *Mr. Kinnear* (another prisoner) "to walk in the manufactory yard, and to "retain in their employment two prisoners as servants;"—it noticed improvements then making in their apartments,—"but "that, in future, no female visitors, *except the wives and chil-*"*dren of the said Henry Hunt and John Kinnear, be admitted* "*into their private rooms;* and that male visitors be therein

"admitted only between the hours of 9 till 12 in the forenoon, "and 3 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the Keeper of "the said Gaol do not permit any Prisoners to lodge or board "in his house."—Such is the Order, signed by twenty Magistrates and the Under-Sheriff, at *Wells Assizes*, on the 14th of August, 1820.—I conclude, Sir, by averring, that neither the Order in the aggregate, nor a *single word of it, was suggested by me.* The occasion seemed to warrant its adoption, and in that persuasion I considered it as my duty to place my signature to the Order.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
J. C. HIPPISLEY.

Grosvenor-street,
20th June, 1822.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY THE BEST POLICY FOR OUR PLANTERS AND THE BRITISH NATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—The East and West India interests are at present at variance; and under the respective titles of "lovers of freedom" and "lovers of justice," claim the sympathy of the public. The first contend, that the sugars of the East are entitled to encouragement, because they are produced by the labour of freemen; and the last, that West India sugar is entitled to encouragement, because it is produced by slaves, or rather, by capital which the *said animals have cost*. I trust, however, that freedom and justice are not so incompatible as the keen hostility of these rival interests would imply; and as I trust your readers, the people of England, are lovers of truth, I shall take the liberty of claiming their attention while I briefly attempt to put the question on a more intelligible basis.

Such is the actual tendency of population to increase beyond the means of subsistence, that the wages of labour are, upon an average of years always at the lowest rate at which a labourer and his family can be supported. Necessity becomes the parent of industry and invention. The natural indolence of mankind is overcome by the calls of hunger. Men are obliged to labour, in order to live; and that which is got with toil must be expended with frugality, in order to meet the many wants it has to satisfy. The labourer is therefore in general obliged to work as hard and live upon as little as possible, and his wages are mostly as low as they can be.

With slaves this is not the case. In the first place, a capital is employed in the purchase of them, which is entirely saved in the same labour by freemen. In the second place, they are kept more expensively than they could keep themselves: a family which could be comfortably supported under its own management with 18*s*. per week, would cost 28*s*. in a parish workhouse; and there would be a proportioned difference to this, at least, between a man contriving for himself as a freeman, and being supported by his master as a slave. In the next place, hunger is a better incentive to industry than the whip: men who cannot get employment without they are industrious, will work twice as hard as men who must be supported whether they are laborious or not, and whose only motive to exertion is the fear of punishment. In the first case, shame, as well as necessity, operates in favour of industry; in the last, injustice and oppression produce a different feeling. Slaves are idle, not only from indolence, but from a sullen revenge. If they can escape punishment, to escape work is a proof of cleverness, and, in their estimation, rather a virtue than a vice: hence the extreme indolence with which they are charged. In the last place, freemen are more intelligent, and with equal industry will do more work, from their superior manner of performing it. Such, in fact, is the wide difference between the labour of freemen and slaves, that it has been lately ascertained in America, that 40 of the former will do the work for which it would require an establishment of 300 of the latter. Hence it must be evident, that slave cultivation can never compete with cultivation by freemen, and when they come in competition with each other, the former must cease to exist. Even in Asia, where slavery is so congenial to the habits of the people, this is the case. Slaves are only kept by the rich for domestic employments, and do not bear, where they have been numbered, a greater proportion than 1 in 50 to the whole population.

The West India Islands being entirely peopled with slave cultivators, the system has become so firmly established, and so interwoven with the prejudices of the proprietors, contracted and debased as they are by the system itself, that free labour has never been able to rear its head. Consequently, the sugars, and all the other produce of these Islands, are charged with the extra expense of this extravagant system of cultivation.

In the East Indies, sugars are the produce of free labour; and such therefore is the difference in the cost of production, that notwithstanding the superior knowledge possessed by the West India Islanders in the art of its cultivation, and notwithstanding the great distance it has to be brought, and the extra expense in bringing it, it can be sold 10*s*. per cwt. cheaper than West India sugar in our market.

Aware of this fact, though probably not of the cause of it, our Government, on the opening of the trade to the East, imposed a duty of 10*s*, per cwt. on its sugar, in order to protect the interests of our planters. This, however, has not been found sufficient, and they have lately obtained 5*s*. per cwt. more.

It will be very obvious, that this duty is in effect nothing more than a tax, paid by the people of this country, upon the price of all the sugars they consume, in support of slavery. Such are the advantages possessed by the West India Islands for the production of the commodity, that this tax, though a very heavy one upon East India sugar, is after all a mere trifle to the superiority they would gain by the introduction of a better system of cultivation. The tax at present puts about 1,200,000*l*. in the pockets of the planters, but this does not pay the mere interest of the capital in slaves which they have employed. Colquhoun computes the value of the slaves in the West India Islands (634,000) at thirty-five millions, a great part of which are engaged in the cultivation of sugars. If we but estimate the value of those so engaged at even twenty-four millions, the tax will only amount to common interest upon it,—viz. upon that capital which with free labour would be totally unnecessary.

If slave cultivation is the most expensive, it must be upon the whole advantageous to the planters to alter it. Had it been the system of this country, one half of our lands which are now very profitable, would have been thrown out of cultivation and have been worth nothing. In proportion as the expense of cultivating an estate is increased, the value of it is diminished; and on the contrary, if any plan could be devised by which one half of the capital and one half of the expense of labour, now applied to the cultivation of land, could be abridged, the value of it would be increased in a four-fold degree. Thus, if the produce of an estate sold for 1500*l*. annually, one-third of which went for rent, one-third in support of labour, and one-third in 10 per cent. profit on 5000*l*. capital; and if by some improvement it could be cultivated with half the labour and half the capital, 250*l*. in labour and 250*l*. in profit of capital, would be saved, which would be added to the rent, and just double the value of the estate. Assuming therefore that the 2500*l*. stock, rendered unnecessary, was lost; the estate being improved 500*l*. per annum, which at 20 per cent. purchase is 10,000*l*.—7,500*l*. would be gained by the speculation.

This by parity of reasoning may be equally applied to the West India proprietors. They could not undertake a more advantageous speculation than the judicious emancipation of slavery. What they lost by their slaves they would gain in a two-fold degree, at least, by their estates. The only difference would be, that they would transfer the property which they now hold in their fellow-creatures to the soil.

It would be very difficult by mere theory, however just and obvious it may appear, to get the planters to enter into views of this kind. The management, time, and patience it would take to emancipate their slaves, and the distant prospect of the advantage it presents, would deter them altogether from voluntarily engaging in such a measure; and nothing but necessity will compel them to it.

This the competition of the free labour of the East will produce, if our Government does not counteract its effects by prohibitory duties. As long as ever West India planters can have the support of Government, they will not trouble themselves to abolish slavery; but how far we can consistently move Europe to do away the Slave Trade, on the one hand, and tax ourselves to support slavery on the other, is a ques-

The gradual but entire abolition of slavery in our West India Islands must in fact appear to every reflecting mind to have become a matter of absolute necessity. If steps for that purpose are not taken in time, it is extremely possible that the example of St. Domingo will be followed by the rest of the Archipelago. It can never be supposed, that the free and independent Black Government of that Island will allow their brethren to continue in their present state of degradation, when they have only to hoist the standard of rebellion, and freedom would follow of course. The only chance that this country has to perpetuate its dominion over its West India Islands, is by the blacks themselves; and if freedom were established, this might be done. When the blacks have acquired property by the efforts of their own industry; when the necessity of living and the hopes of reward enable the Government to hire free black troops; and when that balance of interests and power of money exists, which renders every government stable, then may we expect to have a footing that can be maintained. At present, the interest of the blacks is almost entirely opposed to the whites. Our dominion is only preserved by their ignorance; and probably the time is not far distant, when, without some change is made, we shall hear of the whole white population of the West Indies being exterminated.

Emancipation, however, must be aided by law. The proper mode of proceeding would be, to enact that plantation slaves should be attached to the soil, and only sold with it; and that no plantation slaves should be sold or purchased by any proprietor. If this were the case, a plantation would be ruined if the slaves did not increase, which could only be done by kind treatment. In conjunction with the estate they would be worth as much as before, but being unable to sell them, they would individually be worth nothing. When they became too numerous, the proprietor would be obliged to give part of them their freedom, and in the end he would no doubt find that to emancipate them altogether was his best policy; and that they would be better slaves to him for the sake of employment, than from the fear of punishment. By this time the difference between slavery and freedom would have become hardly perceptible, while in the gradual improvement which took place in the value of the estate, the planter would perceive himself doubly repaid for the gradual loss which he suffered in the price of his slaves.

Nothing could be more impolitic in principle, or more injurious to humanity, than the late duty of 5*s*. per cwt. laid upon East India sugar. It acknowledges the justice of the most diabolical system of slavery that ever existed. It is a further attempt to prevent it dying its natural death. It is supporting with one hand what we are putting down with the other. It is a practical disavowal of those principles which we hold out to the world. It is a blot upon the fair face of British honour, and a severe impost upon an over-taxed and groaning people, to perpetuate the miseries of a poor unfortunate, degraded, and much injured race of our fellow-creatures. This tax ought never to be allowed to disgrace our statute-book. The nation ought to rise up against it, and shower petitions upon the House for its immediate repeal. The remaining impost of 10*s*. ought also to be done away by degrees. The proper way to exterminate slavery is to render it unprofitable, by the competition of free labour; and the British nation are called upon, by consistency, humanity, and interest, with one voice to say, if we allow it to exist, we at least will not be taxed to support it. AN OBSERVER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, MAY 25.—The Grand Seignior has ordered the equipment of a new fleet. The Reis Effendi has declared that the Islands shall be subjected in a month, and the Morea in two months. The Divan appears to have adjourned its decisions regarding Russia till the Greeks are subjected. The Divan shows much firmness; if it makes concessions, they are merely verbal promises, which are not executed because they see that Europe is contented. There is no talk of sending a Commissioner to the Frontiers to negociate with Russia, which the Porte would consider as humiliation.—The merchants of Chio, whose lives were guaranteed by Lord Strangford, were executed, without exception, on the 15th of May; their property has been confiscated, and their families sold.—The 78 Primates of Chio, who were kept as hostages, have been massacred. The villages which yielded to the persuasion of the French Vice-Consul, who announced to them an amnesty, and guaranteed its execution, found themselves cruelly deceived when they had delivered up their arms, the Asiatic troops put the inhabitants of 13 of them to death with the most cruel torments.

MAY 26.—On the 23rd two wealthy merchants, Hydriotes, were beheaded here by order of the Divan. The only reason given is, that the one had a son, who, as a native of Scio, opposed the Turks in their late attack on that island; for the massacre of the other no excuse is offered. On the following day eight respectable merchants, natives of Scio, and connected with some of the first families there, perished in a similar way, and their heads were borne through the streets followed by a fanatic mob, whose yells were truly horrible. These horrors, it is feared, are but the forerunners of still greater calamities.

UNITED PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, June 25.

ANNUITY BILL.

The second reading of the Military and Naval Annuity Bill was proposed by Lord LIVERPOOL, who in his speech gave it as his opinion, that so far from a reduction of taxation being of any use to the agricultural interests, an increased expenditure on the part of Government would afford the most effectual relief.—Lord LANSDOWN, in speaking of the bill, noticed the contradictory plans of Ministers—one of which was to increase the present burthens (by the Sinking Fund) in order to lessen them for posterity; the other (the Annuity Bill) was to lessen present burthens, in order to throw a share of the pressure upon posterity! The absurdity of these two plans was exposed by the Noble Marquis in the following happy manner:—Suppose, he said, any plain farmer, upon going into a corn-market, should find a person buying up great quantities of corn, and was told that that person was the agent of a gentleman who was in great want of corn; and that he should also see another person selling corn in great quantities, who, he should be told, was the agent of a gentleman who had a great deal too much corn in his possession. He would ask their Lordships to imagine what would be the surprise of this farmer, when, upon returning home, he learned that the buyer and the seller were the agents of one and the same person? What would he think of the judgment of the gentleman who employed his agents in this manner? This was however precisely the course pursued by Government.—If the Noble Earl's opinions respecting taxation were sound, they must come to the strange conclusion, that it would be of no importance if the whole income of the country were absorbed in taxation, as it would be returned again by the Government expenditure.—In the course of some further conversation, Lord LIVERPOOL said, it was not the intention of Government to submit any proposition this session respecting the renewal of the Bank Charter.—The bill was read a second time, and committed for Tuesday.

Wednesday, June 26.

MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR approved of the prospective provisions of the Bill to prevent improper marriages, on the principle that once contracted, a Marriage ought to be indissoluble; but objected to the retrospective enactments, which went to make valid (with some exceptions) all marriages that had taken place by license—but not by banns—since 1754, and said that they would operate most injuriously upon the rights of parties now entitled to property from the invalidity of marriages, which would now be rendered valid. He concluded by reading several Amendments, declaring all those marriages invalid which had been decided to be so in actions or suits in the Courts; and that the rendering marriages valid should not affect any instrument respecting property settled or sold, under a belief that such marriages were void.

The retrospective clause was however agreed to.

Thursday, June 27.

NAVAL AND MILITARY ANNUITY BILL.

Lord KING proposed as an Amendment an ironical preamble to this Bill, the first words of which, he said, he believed were English, notwithstanding they were borrowed from his Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs! The Preamble began thus:—"Whereas an impatience of taxation, no less ignorant than irresistible, pervades all ranks of his Majesty's subjects, and it is highly expedient to afford some relief," &c. (proceeding in this

strain to expose all the absurdities of the Bill).—The motion was negatived, after a few words from Lord HARROWBY, who asked whether such a preamble was an example of the sense of the other side of the House?—To which Lord KING replied, that the sense of his preamble precisely suited the Bill.—Adjourned.

Friday, June 28.

MARRIAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The clauses proposed by the LORD CHANCELLOR, which would have in a great measure destroyed the effects of the Bill, were negatived, and it was ordered to be read a third time on Tuesday. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, June 24.

INCREASED INFLUENCE OF THE CROWN.

Mr. BROUGHAM, in a speech of great length and ability, brought forward his motion on this subject. He noticed the Resolution of the House, in 1780 "that the influence of the Crown had increased, and ought to be diminished;" an example, he said, which ought to be adopted, and followed up by legislative enactments. One of the great causes of the increased influence of the Crown was the prodigious patronage which had accrued since 1780, in the increase of the revenue and income of the country. Then the establishment amounted only to 18,000,000*l.* whereas it was now 28,000,000*l.* In 1780, our naval and military officers did not exceed 3800: in the present year they amounted to 27,000. There were 19,000 officers of the army. Did no patronage arise from this state of things? Was it nothing to exercise controul over such a body of gentlemen of rank and family, some of them possessing seats in that House, and many with relatives there? Our increased number of colonies was another source of influence, with all their civil and military appointments; and so was the patronage enjoyed by the Crown in the East Indies,—the cadetships, writerships, &c. The grand increase however, was in the home establishments: upon the collection of the revenue and the management of the debt, it had arisen to upwards of four times its former amount. In 1780, the expense of collecting the revenue was less than one million: it now was more than four millions. Then the interest of the debt was under six millions: now it was little short of fifty millions—which operated in various ways, but all tending to increase the influence of the Crown, by impoverishing the people, placing so many of them in immediate dependence on the Government, and subjecting others to its indirect influence. This no one could dispute, who was at all acquainted with the effects of our revenue laws,—that frightful code, which scarcely a tradesman in England did not shudder at when he contemplated it, for there was hardly one function he had to perform in his ordinary occupation, which did not open traps for his feet. Mr. Brougham here noticed the perplexing enactments of the Excise respecting soap-makers, who were not allowed to have a hole at the bottom of their coppers to carry away the lees, under a penalty of 500*l.*: they were permitted to draw them off only one way, and that was by a pump,—*(Laughter)*—with the additional privilege of another instrument, a ladle! The principle of the Excise laws was most oppressive, for the corner-stone of the whole system was always to throw the burthen of proof upon the accused, and the testimony of an informer was always favourably received in the Exchequer Court. A law had been passed, which gave the Treasury the power of relieving all persons from Exchequer process, even after conviction: this put an irresistible power into the hands of the Treasury, which had contrived to put its long arm into all the departments of the State. Owing to the long continuance of an expensive war, a habit had grown up of looking to Government for the means of support, instead of trusting to the exertions of useful industry, and this was another source of Crown influence; for there was as much competition and subserviency to gain half the emoluments, as there was to procure the whole, under the war expenditure. All these things, Mr. Brougham contended, sufficiently proved that the influence of the Crown had much increased since the resolution of 1780, and required the interference of Parliament. There were 87 placemen in the House; but it was not merely by the placemen in Parliament that the influence of the Crown was extended. *(Hear, hear!)* If the Minister had the disposal of 27 or 28 millions—if he had the power of granting increase of salaries—if he could expend large sums in purchasing the support of individuals at elections and county meetings, it came to the same thing: the influence was felt by members through their friends: it was first felt at elections, and then in the votes of the House; and it signified very little whether a man was bribed by holding an office himself, or by having another to hold it in trust for him; the obligation was the same, and the influence was the same. There was the same dancing attendance at the Treasury in the morning—the same dancing attendance in the House at night. *(Hear, hear!)* The suffering of the people was the same in both cases, and they were called upon to pay the same amount of taxes, as if there were an additional number of placemen actually sitting in Parliament.—Whoever was the Minister of the Crown, and whatever might be his measures, the House uniformly supported both the man and the measures *(Hear, hear!)* This proposition he would lay down in the broadest manner, for it had hardly an exception, so great was the influence of the Crown. A decided majority of that House was always ready to support any Minister. *(Hear, hear!)* While Mr. Pitt was in power, his majorities stuck by him; but as soon as Mr. Addington succeeded him, the House preferred Mr. Addington's great hereditary name, and the fame of his illustrious ancestors. *(Cheers and laughter.)* What, then, became of the support of Mr. Pitt's adherents—the love of his friends—the gratitude of all on whom he had conferred benefits—the fidelity of the placemen he had created, and the affection of the contractors he had replenished? Where, then, were the worthy aldermen he had enriched, the hon. baronets he had made, the knights of the shire for whose families he had provided, and all the representatives for rotten boroughs, who had a thousand times boasted their generous and unalterable regard? *(Hear!)* Where were all those among whom he had lived—whom he had fed, clothed, and commanded, and who, while he was Minister, had dragged through every measure, overcoming every opponent, from Mr. Fox down to the gentleman whom he did not wish to name, who had once displayed a bank-note before the eyes of the House? All had suddenly disappeared; they deserted the champion of their ancient ally; Mr. Pitt was discomfited, and left in as small a minority as Mr. Fox, or any other opposition member, had ever headed. Mr. Pitt had no longer the means of buying friends, or securing the gratitude of base and mercenary dependents. *(Hear, hear!)* Of all his overwhelming majorities, only 56 were

"Among the faithless ——— faithful found"

adhering to him even in "extremity of ill." In 1806, another event occurred, which let in new light on the honourable House of Commons: Mr. Fox came into office, and the very House that just before had charged Mr. Fox even with unfurling the standard of rebellion, no longer entertained the slightest distrust of his person or his principles. *(Hear, hear!)* They followed him implicitly, and with as great a numerical force as had followed any of his predecessors in office. From such facts, what but one irresistible conclusion could be drawn?—Mr. Brougham stated other instances of the same nature, and dwelt strongly on the No-Popery cry of Mr. Perceval, and the conduct of the House on the Walcheren Expedition, the Regency question, the Cintra affair, &c. all proving the gross inconsistency and flagrant violation of duty on the part of the House of Commons; who thus left out of sight all public principle, all duty to their country, all regard to their own character and station. *(Hear, hear!)* Mr. Brougham then spoke of the conduct of the present House in regard to the Malt Tax, and the "grinding clause," and the effect of the Minister's threat of resignation. What he meant to say, and what he conceived he had proved, was this:—that any member of the executive government, whom the King might choose to appoint his Minister—upon him the King might bestow a certain majority in Parliament. *(Hear, hear!)* And it was not merely that that majority consisted in a great measure of the placemen in that House who voted—(although the experience of last session had been sufficient to show that there were enough of them to determine nine questions out of ten)—but by far the greater number of individuals who composed that majority, might serve to prove the still further influence which was possessed in that House by the Crown. It was certain, that while freedom of debate was preserved, while the press in all its departments, and the law, be trusted, in all her's, contributed to secure to us as much liberty as could be enjoyed without an independent Parliament, the public voice would penetrate those walls. *(Hear, hear!)* But what he complained of was, that the times did not coincide; that much misery, year after year, was permitted to take place, without being remedied. They waited until the quiet pool should be troubled; they waited until the deep but stagnant waters should be ruffled by the storm and the tempest. In the mean time they were pursuing all the courses of his Majesty's Ministers, however degrading to the Parliament, or destructive to the country. It was 30 years before the voice of the public produced its effect in the House, when with a Reformed Parliament, under similar circumstances, it would have been as effectual in as many months. *(Cheers.)* The Slave Trade was universally condemned, and nothing was wanted to effect its abolition, except that it was not supported by a Minister. A Minister might have carried it as easily as a common Exchequer bills bill. The last division was in 1805; and then the proposition for abolishing the Slave Trade was actually thrown out by a majority. *(Hear!)* In the very next year, Mr. Fox, then in office, came down to Parliament, armed with all the powers

of Government, and supported a similar proposition: the consequence was, that it was carried by a majority of ten to one! *(Hear!)* The people have at length taken a sober, steady, and determined view of the evils by which they have been so long oppressed, and of the necessity of applying a remedy—namely, a great reduction of offices, and of the number of placemen in the House. Another more direct remedy was Parliamentary Reform—*(Hear, hear!)*—the only means of bringing the representative into a more frequent communication with his constituents, and to get rid of those overgrown establishments which now threatened to overturn the country. (*Cheers.*) He did hope that this opportunity would be taken for giving a pledge to the country to this effect. It was to enable that House to regain with the country that confidence which only their own fault could have forfeited—it was to give them such an opportunity of evincing to the people that they were sensible of the existing evils, and sympathized with their constituents, that he should propose as a resolution—"That the influence now possessed by the Crown is unnecessary for maintaining its constitutional prerogatives, destructive of the independence of Parliament, and inconsistent with the well government of the State."

Lord Londonderry observed, that the measure of Reform, to which the Hon. Gentleman alluded, should be brought forward in an open, not in a covert way, as this evidently was. Whatever might be the influence of the Crown in that House, he denied that it was corruptly exerted. In contrasting the expenditure and condition of the country with what they were years ago, its encreased wealth and population should be considered, as well as those mischievous doctrines, growing out of the destructive ashes of the dangerous and pregnant phœnix of the French Revolution. *(Laughter, and cries of hear!)* As to the collection of the revenue, the influence of the Crown had been decreased, and the legislature had shewn a laudable desire to reduce the patronage of the Executive. Offices were not now bestowed for purposes of influence, but on the ground of merit. The taxes were never before collected with less aid from legal processes, though the Exchequer laws were necessarily severe. The number of placemen in the House was never so small as at present; not more that 47 or 48 held places to which influence could fairly be attached. Notwithstanding the increase of the revenue, from the close of the war, 1699 offices had been reduced, and a saving made of 750,000*l.* Much, he admitted, remained to be done; and he could assure the House that Ministers entertained every wish to retrench to every practicable extent. (*Hear!*) Much as the Hon. and Learned Gentleman despised and reviled the Parliament, it was that very reviled Parliament that had not only saved their country, but the civilized world. *(Loud cries of hear, hear!)* Such was the fact; and for the last 40 years it had successfully kept down the influence of the Crown, and narrowly watched over the issue of the public money! *(Hear, hear!)* The Hon. Gentleman seemed more anxious to vituperate the Parliament than the Government. It was clear that Parliamentary Reform was the object of his motion. His invective was directed against Parliament, for having supported the system which saved the country. He (Lord Londonderry) was yet to learn that the House ought to nominate the Ministers of the Crown. For his own part, he thought it was the bounden duty of the Members to support the Minister for the time being. *(Cries of hear!)* It was in consequence of the support which Ministers had received, this country had been enabled to keep up a successful struggle against the acts of revolutionary Governments, and had been enabled to meet the machinations of some of the infatuated subjects of this country. Steady in the march he had described, Government had adopted every practicable measure for ameliorating the state of the country. He protested solemnly against the motion of the Hon. Gentleman. He wished to sap the foundation of the character of Parliament, knowing that, if the House were base enough to sign its own dishonour, a dissolution of the present system must inevitably follow. *(Hear, hear!)* He hoped, therefore, that the House would immediately pass to the other orders of the day, and not give any countenance to the proposition. *(Hear, hear!)* He called on the House the more earnestly to do this, because measures were in progress to investigate every office to which the idea of influence could be attached, for the purpose of placing it on the most economical footing. Those offices would be placed on grounds very different from those on which they had formerly stood; and Ministers would not relax in their efforts to introduce a system of rigid economy. More, much more, would be done, without agreeing to a Resolution, which, if acted on, would have the effect of shaking off the best interests of the empire. *(Hear, hear!)* His Lordship concluded by moving "that the other orders of the day be now read."

Mr. H. G. Bennet wondered how the Noble Lord could venture to assert, that individuals were selected for office on account of their merit, and not on the ground of patronage,—and to assert this, too, in the presence of persons, the object of whose frequent visits to the Treasury nobody could mistake! The patronage of the Post-office was now wholly in the hands of the Treasury; and in the Customs and Excise departments there were 9000 persons—a body equal to the whole standing army of better times. There was also an immense increase of patronage in the Army and Navy Establishments. Since 1793, no less than 989 officers had been dismissed the service without a hearing, and almost without accusation. Such exertions of power could not fail to give influence. There were 87 persons in the House who had places, and enjoyed amongst them 163,000*l.* a-year: and there were also 73 Members holding naval and military commissions. Then there was the influence of the Crown through the Church Establishment, which always supported the Court, even in matters in which it should seem difficult for any persons having religious feelings to follow it. Without speaking of the rich Church Establishment of Ireland, where the Clergy had less to do and more to receive than any other country in the world,—in England alone there were in the gift of the Crown 2 archbishopricks, 24 bishopricks, 30 deaneries, 46 prebends, and 1,020 livings. He would ask whether this enormous patronage had not necessarily an immense effect on the country? He would call attention to what had been done by the Crown in the purchase of that House. The great creation of peers during the last 20 years had been of persons brought out of that House on account of the number of seats which they held there, and which they left to be occupied by their nominees. In 1780 there were 225 peers, and now there were 378. *(Hear!)* The Noble Lord had made a general panegyric on the Parliament; but he had found it difficult to follow his Hon. Friend through the specific instances of the degradation of the House—of their voting against a proposition one day, and turning round at the beck of the minister to vote for it the next; voting in favour of a man when he was minister, and leaving him in a minority the moment he had left office. When the Noble Lord praised the conduct of the Parliament during the last war, why did he not look to the general result? They had found the country a garden of Eden, and left it a wilderness of desolation. The agricultural interest was reduced to beggary. The commercial interest was reduced to almost the same condition, and the colonial interest was in a state of confessed bankruptcy. (*Hear!*) There were two ways of reforming the House; the one was to get rid of the pensioners and placemen; for when they look back to the lists of divisions, they would find that the votes of disputed millions of the public money had been decided by the votes of paid servants of the Crown. The other was a reform in the mode in which Members were returned. Without that change, it was to little purpose for his Hon. Friend to make those speeches which were so well calculated to enlighten; he well knew that they were all as waste paper, unless a cheap Government made a reform. (*Hear, hear!*)

Mr S. Wortley contended that there was no occasion for a Reform, which would end in destroying the Monarchy. (*Hear, hear!*) The House of Commons was not to appoint the Ministers of the Crown, but only to withdraw its confidence from them when they did not deserve it. Gentlemen on the other side had lost the confidence of the people, or they would have been in office more than once. He would not say, that they "pandered to the base passions of the people;" but he would say, that so long as they attempted to take advantage of the prejudices of the ignorant, they would not have the confidence of the sound part of the country. They now assumed much on Parliamentary Reform, and the temper of the people was with them: but the frequent discussion of that topic, he had no doubt, would convince the people that their safety was in the continuance of the present Constitution of the House of Commons. (*Hear!*)

Mr. Brougham briefly replied, observing that the Noble Lord had left all the sore places untouched, gently covering them with general panegyric; but a more lame and impotent defence he had never heard. He called upon the House not to turn a deaf ear to the voice of the people, the consequence of which would be a well-founded dissatisfaction, and all the evils which must arise from a derangement of the Constitution. It might hereafter be too late to attempt what might now be an effectual remedy. It was the part of wisdom to act in unison with the interests and feelings of the people, as many former Parliaments had kept in view every gratification, not of the nation, but of the Ministers. (*Hear, hear!*)

On a division, there appeared for the motion, 101—Against it, 216—Majority in favour of the present system, 115.—Adjourned at half past twelve.

Tuesday, June 25.

CASE OF WM. SIDNEY SMITH.

Mr. Hobhouse presented a petition respecting Wm. Sidney Smith. This person had been tried and found guilty, at the Old Bailey, of robbing Mr. Middleton in the Strand, of his watch and pocket-book, though the prosecutor had not been able to swear to the prisoner. The only evidence against Smith was four Police

officers. Mr. Sheriff Parkyns happened to witness the robbery of Mr. Middleton, and on going to see Smith when cast for death, saw that he was not the robber. Mr. Parkyns wrote to the officers, who replied that Smith did not belong to the gang who robbed Mr. Middleton. Mr. Parkyns and others then applied to Lord Sidmouth, and respectable persons vouched for the good character of Smith. Notwithstanding this, he was sent to Botany-bay for life, although too the man, who really committed the robbery, had been tried and convicted of the offence, and had actually confessed it! Mr. Hobhouse called upon the Secretary for the Home Department to interfere and do something for the unfortunate man.

Mr. PEEL replied, that it would be a dangerous precedent for the House to interfere in such a case, as the Jury and Judges had been satisfied of the guilt of Smith. And it was a fallacy to suppose, that because another person had been found guilty of the crime, that Smith could not be an abettor of it.

Messrs. CREEVEY, BENNETT, and WM. SMITH, all thought that Smith's innocence was clearly made out;—and the petition was ordered to lie on the table; but Mr. PEEL gave no promise of inquiry into the case.

THE LORD ADVOCATE—SCOTCH PRESS.

Mr. ABERCROMBY, in a speech of considerable length, called the attention of the House to the conduct of the Lord Advocate of Scotland, as connected with the Scotch press. It appeared from the Hon. Gentleman's statements, that the Lord Advocate, who was the sole public prosecutor in Scotland, and who possessed great civil as well as criminal powers, had, with others, become the patron of a newspaper called the *Clydesdale Journal* (afterwards the *Glasgow Sentinel*) in which paper there had appeared libels against individuals of as gross and atrocious a description as could well be imagined, some of which were those upon Mr. Stuart, which had occasioned the death of Sir Alexander Boswell. Of this journal, Mr. Aiton, the Sheriff-substitute for Lanark, was the Editor, who was likewise, from his situation, armed with great official powers, and was also, like the Lord Advocate, a conservator of the peace, and might be called upon to decide upon actions for damages, instituted for libels which he had himself written. (*Great cheering.*) In 1821, the *Beacon* newspaper was set up by the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General, Sir Walter Scott, and several others, who subscribed 100*l.* each, and procured for it 800 subscribers at its starting. This paper, too, indulged in the most unjustifiable and disgusting personalities and libels; so much so, that one of its original patrons withdrew his name as a subscriber: he could no longer endure the system of defamation, slander, and obscenity, which it had adopted, and which, Mr. Abercromby said, he was surprized that any person of the rank of gentleman could possibly countenance. The Lord Advocate and his colleagues were at length detected as the proprietors of the *Beacon*; they immediately withdrew their names from the bond, and shortly after the paper was dropped;—a fact, said Mr. Abercromby, which spoke more against the respectability of the paper than all the invectives which could possibly be thrown upon it. (*Hear, hear!*) During all the time this paper was running its course of slander and infamy, the Lord Advocate could have extinguished it in a moment, but this was not done till it was discovered that he was its patron and supporter, (*loud cheering,*) when he reluctantly withdrew his name.—Alluding to the death of Sir A. Boswell and the trial of Mr. Stuart, what, asked Mr. Abercromby, must have been the feelings of the Learned Lord, while he conducted that trial, upon recollecting that it was the system promoted by the money and the patronage which he had given to the *Sentinel* and the *Beacon*, that had fostered the slanderous insinuations against Mr. Stuart, which had compelled that gentleman to resort to the measures he had done for the vindication of his injured honour? After various other statements and observations, Mr. Abercromby entered upon the case of Mr. Borthwick, who had been the partner of a person, named Alexander, in the *Sentinel*. Mr. Borthwick was dissatisfied, and left the concern, upon a certain agreement, which Alexander never fulfilled, and in consequence the Magistrates made an order in his favour to take possession of his former property. He re-entered his own premises, carried away his own papers, and immediately recorded "the robbery" at Glasgow. No notice was taken of this at the time, but after he had been released from prison, where he had been confined on a false charge of debt, he was charged by Alexander with theft—that of stealing his own property! The Magistrates of Glasgow were of opinion that there were no grounds for the charge, and dismissed him. He was, however, afterwards arrested at Dundee, manacled, put in irons that were too small, which caused him great inconvenience and suffering, and conveyed by two armed men to Edinburgh, where he was put in prison, and his family and friends were denied all access to him. (*Hear, hear!*) He was treated in jail like the worst of felons, and bail was refused. He was now indicted, the Lord Advocate being prosecutor—(*cries of hear!*)—and the day of trial fixed; but when that day came, the public-prosecutor-depute, John Hope, the Lord Advocate's representative, did not think fit to bring the case on. (*Hear!*) They, however, kept him in prison 40 days, when he obtained his discharge. The Lord Advocate, observed Mr. Abercromby, might say, that he was obliged to give his consent to these proceedings. Good God! was the Lord Advocate all powerful in everything but in standing between oppression and the oppressed? Was he only to be the instrument of, not the defence against, persecution? He (Mr. A.) conjured the House to recollect, that all these proceedings took place in a country where there was no Grand Jury—where the Learned Lord originated all prosecutions on his own responsibility. (*Hear!*) The fact was, the Learned Lord knew that there was no foundation for the charge, and that it arose out of nothing but the spirit of persecution. Such was the case with regard to Borthwick. The Learned Lord, in 1820, patronized him—wrote to him that he should be happy to be instrumental in getting Government advertisements into his paper; and in the same year he signed a recommendation of the journal he conducted. The instant, however, that this unhappy man became instrumental in exposing calumniators and slanderers, he was arrested at Dundee, put in irons, and treated with unusual, with unheard-of severity. A day was fixed for his trial; the Learned Lord and Mr. Alexander jointly proceeded against him, but when Mr. Stuart was acquitted, Borthwick was set free! Could any man, then, hesitate in saying that there had existed a strong desire to create a prejudice against Mr. Stuart on his trial, by these steps against Borthwick? (*Hear, hear!*)—Mr. Abercromby concluded his speech by appealing to the House for a full and impartial inquiry. He had, he said, endeavoured to show that these proceedings were conducted upon system—that the papers he had named were patronized, encouraged, and maintained by persons holding situations which ought to have prevented their interference—always referring to the Learned Lord and his colleagues as public prosecutors, and that the conservator of the peace had been the fomentor of dispute. So powerful had been the effect of the example, that from Inverness to Dumfries, newspapers had been established more or less upon the plan promoted by the Learned Lord; and he regretted to add, that in some instances clergymen were concerned in them, though, generally speaking, they were supported by Borough Magistrates, and by persons holding inferior situations in the law, and who looked up to the Learned Lord, in his double capacity of Secretary of State for Scotland, and Lord Advocate, for recommendation and patronage. He entreated the House to recollect, that the death of Sir Alexander Boswell was not the only result of this system of personal calumny: that learned and excellent person, Mr. Scott, fell a sacrifice to Scotch libels. He asked the House to pronounce no opinion in the outset, but he thought that he had shown a sufficient ground for inquiry. He therefore moved—"That a select committee be appointed, for the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of the Lord Advocate, and the other law officers of the Crown in Scotland, with relation to the public press, but more especially to inquire into the prosecution carried on against W. M. Borthwick." [Mr. Abercromby sat down amid loud and continued cheers.]

The LORD-ADVOCATE (Sir William Rae) after some complaints about the delay in bringing forward these charges, proceeded to his defence. As to the *Sentinel*, so help him, God, he had never seen the newspaper, had never supported or had any hand in it. He had refused Borthwick's request, and had not signed the subscription paper—he had no recollection of having done so—[*Here Mr. Abercromby handed the paper across the table, which had the Learned Lord's signature to it!*]—That, he said, put an end to the question; but he trusted that the House would give him credit for believing, until he saw that paper, that he had not signed it! When the *Clydesdale Journal* was set up, he was asked to give his support to it. He did so in his private capacity, as at that time the country was exposed to the operations of a licentious press, which it was wished to counteract. But it was unfair to say that he should answer for what appeared in that paper, to which he never contributed. As to the Sheriff-depute having written in the *Sentinel*, he could say nothing; but it was his intention to make an entire change amongst his Sheriffs substitute. With regard to the *Beacon*, it was true that he and others had subscribed 100*l.* each to set it up,—and their object, he would contend, was a just, honest, and legal one, for it was to check the progress of the *licentious* press. But during the time of its publication he did not peruse it—he was quite ignorant of its contents! If it had contained libels, why were they not read? Mr. Gibson and others complained of the articles it put forth; but he was not answerable for them, and had no concern in the property of the paper. He withdrew his name from it in July, and all the other subscribers did the same. He had acted as a private individual throughout, and surely he was entitled to use

his money as he pleased, and to support what line of politics he deemed useful. The Hon. Gentleman argued, that he might be judicially connected with a cause growing out of libellous matter published in the paper. If libels did occur, the course for the aggrieved party to pursue, was to bring his action, and to call for damages. If, on the other hand, seditious articles against the Crown and the Government were published (and certainly articles of such a nature were not likely to appear in that newspaper) (*Hear, and a laugh.*) how would it affect the individual holding a legal situation, who had subscribed 100*l.*? Would his having so subscribed prevent him from following up legal proceedings? Was it to be supposed that the *base idea* of his having expended 100*l.* in supporting the publication, would prevent him from doing his duty? As for the case of Borthwick, he had, as he was informed, broken open a private repository, and carried away private and confidential communications, the property of Alexander. He was in consequence arrested; but of his sufferings he knew nothing; and certainly no order for putting him in chains had been sanctioned by the Town Council. On the day of trial, it was given up, because it was thought that any investigation respecting the papers, previously to the trial of Mr. Stuart, would be anticipating the general question, and the case was left for another time. If Borthwick had been charged wrongfully, he had his remedy: and if there had been any error, he (the Lord-Advocate) was alone to blame. He had however done nothing but what he conceived to be his duty, and if the House thought otherwise, he should bow to its decision; but he hoped for a favourable verdict, as he had always endeavoured to conduct his official business with moderation and candour. (*Hear!*)

Mr. Peel made various observations on the question, contending that the Lord Advocate had neither encouraged, nor had intended to encourage any libellous attacks on individuals, in the support he had given the newspapers alluded to. How far it had been prudent in him to connect himself with public papers, was not the question; but it would be extremely hard, if persons in office were to be held bound for every paragraph in papers which they supported. He trusted that the House would reject the motion.

Sir J. Macintosh was compelled to hope otherwise; for if, he said, a set of detestable ruffians continued to publish their systematic calumnies against men and against women—against the memory of the dead, and the domestic peace of the living—and if the House should sanction, year after year, such detestable calumny, by a refusal to enquire into such a case as the present, it would be chargeable with entailing a continuance of the system, and the ruffians would carry on their infamous trade by the license and under the authority of the House of Commons. (*Hear, hear!*) The only question was, whether there had not been gross misconduct in a high public officer—whether he had not sanctioned a system detrimental to the public peace, which gave rise to duelling and shedding of blood, and barbarized political warfare? As the Public Prosecutor of Scotland, his conduct should have been far different; and to refuse inquiry, would be a gross violation of their duty both to Scotland and England. (*Cheers.*)

Lord Londonderry maintained, that it would be no small infliction to sanction the inquiry called for. He had never read any of the alleged libels, and there was no proof before the House. His Learned Friend was not responsible for what had been published; he had only pledged himself to support the paper on the principles held forth in the prospectus. Throughout all the transactions alluded to, as he trusted the House would agree with him in thinking, the Learned Lord's conduct had been free from reproach. (*Cries of hear, hear!*) It might have been more discreet, perhaps, to have kept himself distinct from such proceedings —(*Hear!*)—but nothing could be found to touch his character, either as a man or as a lawyer.

Mr. Lockhart was disposed to vote for the motion: and after Mr. Abercromby had replied, the House divided, when there appeared for the motion, 95—Against it, 120—Majority, only 25. —Adjourned at about two o'clock.

Wednesday, June 26.

Mr. Curwen presented a Petition from Major R. Wood, complaining of being deprived of his commission without trial.

Lord Palmerston replied, that the Petitioner's commission had been disposed of to make up the deficit due by him to the public, and that he was still a defaulter to the extent of 3,600*l.*

COURT OF CHANCERY AND APPELLANT JURISDICTION.

Mr. M. A. Taylor dwelt upon the excessive delay and expence attendant on the proceedings in these Courts, enough to destroy any moderate fortune, and exhaust any moderate patience. He instanced a case, in which, after twelve years delay, a decree ordered the payment of 1,200l., but his costs came to 750l. so that there came into his pockets out of this property but 450l. (*Hear!*) In 1812, the abuses in the Equity Courts occasioned the House of Lords to appoint a Committee to report upon it, out of which arose the Bill for creating the Vice-Chancellor's Court, which was opposed by Sir S. Romilly, who predicted the evils which had ensued from it. The present Vice-Chancellor himself opposed it. The chief duty of the Great Seal was to administer justice to suitors in Chancery as quickly as possible, but now they could scarcely approach the Seal but by intervention of the Vice-Chancellor's Court, its Deputy, and were thus exposed to double expence, and great loss of time. Many of the motions heard by the Chancellor, and many of the exceptions and petitions, were appeals from the Vice-Chancellor. With regard to the Appellant Jurisdiction of the House of Lords, it would take four years in that Court to get through 155 appeals which remained to be disposed of in May, 1822. The Lord Chancellor himself had said, that unless some plan were adopted to get rid of the Scotch appeals, he could not go on. It was his wish that Government should consider what it would be advisable to substitute for the Vice-Chancellor's Court. He concluded by moving for a Committee to consider the 53d of the late King, entitled an Act to facilitate the administration of justice.

The Attorney-General opposed the motion; and on a division there appeared for it, 51—Against it, 108—Majority against it, 57.

PENSION BILL.

Mr. Creevey said, he was aware that when he sought to take away 42,000l. bestowed by the Administration of the day in Pensions, he attempted a difficult task, but he would persevere against the iniquitous Pension Bill, for he recollected that he had as his allies the public opinion, the publicity of their debates, and the forms of Parliament, and that the Bill could not long remain on the Statute Book. The subject of his first Resolution was, the account of the establishment and distribution of the fund of 42,000l. a year to certain persons in the shape of Pensions. A Parliamentary Act to remunerate the efficient Law Officers on their retirement, had made 15 years the term of service necessary to entitle a Chief Justice to a retiring Pension. The noble and honourable Persons who provided pensions for themselves in the Act of 1817, fixed two years as the term of entitlement, besides a *fancy pension*, which any one of the high public officers might hold without having served any term at all—(*A laugh.*) His next resolution was a statement of the pretence under which the gentlemen had provided themselves with these pensions, which was, that on account of the abolition of some offices, and regulation of others, which might deprive the King of the power of rewarding persons holding, or who have held, high and efficient public offices, it was necessary to make some compensation to them for the loss. The third Resolution stated, that there had been no application from the Crown for such a Pension Fund, but that the Act originated with a House of Commons Committee, partly composed of persons who would be entitled to the pensions to be created, among whom were Lord Londonderry, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer,—a Committee, too, appointed in a time of financial distress, to consider of the possible means of *relieving* the people. The pensions were to be granted, not as an act of favour by the Crown, but merely with the power of its veto by refusing the sign manual. The Noble Lord had declared, that he would not *disvigour* the monarchy by consenting to an inquiry into the diplomatic expenditure, but how much more did such a Bill as this *disvigour* the monarchy. (*A laugh!*) The term was the Noble Lord's; he should not have thought of using it himself. (*A laugh.*) The fourth Resolution stated, that contrary to all former practice, the Act of 1817 had assumed that the abolition of useless offices, or regulation of overpaid ones, is to be purchased by compensation to the high and efficient public officers. Some consideration was formerly shewn for the people; all the consideration now was shewn for the Ministers of the Crown. The principle was new to bring improvements to market; and to pay the Ministers, like clerks, for the abolition of every perquisite of office; and there never was so abominable and atrocious a bargain, which public officers made with themselves in behalf of the public. The fifth Resolution therefore declared that the want of an adequate consideration, and the false pretence of the bargain—the two Justices in Eyre being the only offices which had been usually given to Ministers. The saving made by the Committee appointed to relieve the distresses of the country, altogether only amounted to 4,602l. 10s. out of 60 millions. In the way of compensation had been granted a pension of 3,000l. to Lord Sidmouth, and 1,000l. to Mr. Goulburn. He would ask whether ever a people was so grossly insulted as by being called on to make compensation to official persons on such grounds as these?—Mr. Creevey then moved the first of his Resolutions.

Mr. Bankes said, that the motion of the Hon. Gentleman would go to the restoration of the sinecure offices, which had been removed by the Act. As to the pension of the Noble Viscount

Sidmouth, the sum he received was not too large for the services he had performed. The Hon. Member moved for the other Orders of the day.

Mr. H. G. Bennet objected to the Pension Bill, because it enabled adventurers, who prostituted their talents in that House, to raise themselves to the highest offices in the State, and after two years, to retire upon a pension for life. He did not believe that the country would lose by the repeal of the Bill, for in that case the House would never agree to give 3000*l.* to such a man as the Noble Viscount, nor the Clerkship of the Pells to his son. The former, he thought, was just as much calculated to fill the Ministerial situation he had lately occupied, as one of the door-keepers of the House. It might become the supporters of the Manchester massacre, and the eulogists of spies and informers, to praise the Noble Viscount, but he could not consider it any thing but an unfortunate selection which had placed such a man in an office of such great importance.

Lord Londonderry said, he felt himself called upon to repel with indignation many of the sentiments which had fallen from the Hon. Member who spoke last, and also from the originator of the present motion. The Hon. Gentleman who spoke last had observed a disgusting system of inconsistency, and in comparing the acquirements of his Noble Friend with those of a door-keeper, had properly drawn upon himself the disgust of the House. *(Cheers.)* He was satisfied that his Noble Friend, in accepting the Government, had been actuated only by a sense of public duty. No man ever conducted the finances of the country upon a principle of greater vigour; for, after having provided for 100 millions of debt, he added twelve millions of war taxes shortly after the peace of Amiens, which had enabled the country to conduct the struggle in which we were engaged to so glorious an issue. He could not have satisfied his own feelings, if he had heard in silence a speech, which, he must say, was the most disgusting and disgraceful that had ever been uttered in the British Parliament. *(Loud cheers.)*

Mr. Brougham—I protest against the tone which the King's Minister, standing up in his place, has dared to use.

The Marquess of Londonderry rose, amidst loud cheering, and vehement cries of "Order!" "Chair, chair!" When any Hon. Member, said the Noble Marquess, thinks fit to use the word "dare," I must presume he must allude to something which has been said inconsistent with parliamentary usage. The Hon. and Learned Member, when he protests against any expressions of mine, which he supposes to be disorderly, should take care that he does not himself violate the Orders of this House. *(Loud cries of "Chair, chair!")*

The Speaker said, he had frequently heard the expressions, to which the Noble Lord had adverted, used in that House, and certainly with no such intention as that assumed by the Noble Lord.

Mr. Brougham maintained that he a right to impugn any Minister of the Crown for presuming to accuse a Representative of the people, engaged in the honest, manly discharge of his duty, in language such as no Member of that House had ever ventured to employ. No Minister of the Crown, *whether he could or could not speak the English language*, had ever used such expressions as the Noble Lord had applied to his Hon. Friend. *(Cheers.)* Disgraceful! *(Cheers)* Disgusting! *(Loud Cheers.)* He heartily concurred with his Hon. Friend in opinion, that a more absurd appointment—for it was too ludicrous to be dignified with the title of unwise and impolitic—than that of Lord Sidmouth to be Prime Minister of this country, especially at the period at which he was appointed, was never known in the annals of this or any other country enjoying a free Constitution. The case was plain. The Noble Lord wished to gag the mouths of Hon. Members, and prevent them from faithfully discharging their duty to the people.

The Marquess of Londonderry said, he was not aware of having adopted any tone inconsistent with the usage of Parliament. He had used the words "disgraceful and disgusting," in no other than a Parliamentary sense, and he did not apply them to the general scope of the argument of the Hon. Member for Shrewsbury.

The House then divided on the first Resolution—For the Amendment 143—Against it 42—Majority 101.—Mr. Creevey's other Resolutions were put and negatived without a division.—Adjourned at half-past two o'clock.

Thursday, June 27.

After some discussion, the Alehouse Licensing Bill was read a third time and passed.

SLAVE TRADE.—HOLY ALLIES.

Mr. Wilberforce called the attention of the House to this subject, and noticed in terms of strong reprehension the conduct of the French Government, who permitted her own subjects to embark most largely and notoriously in this dreadful commerce, while it reprobated the evil, and expressed a desire to remedy it. He concluded by moving an Address to the King, praying him to renew his remonstrances and endeavours to wipe away this foul blot on the character of Christendom.

Sir J. Mackintosh reprobated, with much honest warmth, the conduct of Portugal, France, and Russia. The Russian Government, he said, in its new tariff, had given the monopoly of its market to those who had obstinately refused to give up the trade. Those who had solemnly stipulated to put an end to this odious trade, had broken every oath, and laughed at every promise. Yet these were the persons who had set on foot "the Holy Alliance," the professed object of which was to enforce the performance of the duties of Christianity! And what had followed from their union? insincere declarations, breaches of faith, the practice of falsehood, the encouragement of barbarity, and the perpetration of cruelty and murder! These were the fruits of the Christian system which had been advanced and supported by the advisers of the Emperor of Russia. *(Hear, hear!)*

Lord Londonderry thought the Hon. Member was not warranted in making such charges against France and Russia.

The Address was then agreed to.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

To some questions asked respecting the deplorable condition of Ireland,—Mr. Goulburn replied, he felt the calamity the more severely, because, with every exertion to relieve it, he knew that it was not in the power of man to remedy it! Ship-biscuits had been sent, and more was going; and the Lord Lieutenant had received 100,000*l.* for the employment of the poor.

Mr. V. Fitzgerald said it would be yet two months before the sufferers could obtain relief from the country itself.—Adjourned.

Friday, June 28.

The Roasted Corn Bill was read a third time, and passed.

On the committal of the Scotch Juries' Bill, Mr. Kennedy acceded to the proposition of the Secretary of State, to limit his Bill to the providing for persons put upon trial the right of peremptorily challenging the Jury.

THE BOWDITCHES.

Mr. Hobhouse presented a petition from the inhabitants of Taunton, praying that the notes of the Judge who presided at the trial of the Bowditches for the abduction of Maria Glenn, might be referred to the committee of justice of that House. The Hon. Member observed, that the circumstances of the case were certainly not of ordinary occurrence, but he did not see what remedy could be applied by the House. Never was a case of conviction more confidently relied on, by judge, jury, and counsel, than this. He trusted it would be a lesson to judges not to be too sure of the justice of the cases which might come before them.—The petition was ordered to lie on the table.

MR. BORTHWICK'S CASE.

Mr. Abercromby presented a petition from Wm. Murray Borthwick,—a plain and simple statement of the facts connected with his various unmerited sufferings.—Mr. Abercromby contended, that as a flagrant outrage had been committed on the personal liberty of the subject, the House was bound to see that it did not pass unredressed—for to refer the petitioner to his remedy at law, was adding mockery to injury.

A conversation arose, in which Lord Londonderry said, he was prepared to hear everything which could be brought forward on the case;—and the Lord Advocate declared, that he coveted every responsibility.—Subsequently, various papers relative to Mr. Borthwick's case were ordered to be laid before the House.

TURKISH BARBARITIES.

To questions put by Mr. W. Smith and Sir J. Macintosh, respecting the recent atrocities committed by the Turkish Government,—Lord Londonderry answered, he believed 80 or 90 individuals had been executed at Constantinople, natives of Scio and of the Morea. They were not under the protection of the British; but, on the principle of good offices, Lord Strangford had frequently interposed. Acts of barbarity had been committed on both sides. The Greeks had committed certain cruelties, which, though they did not justify, led to the calamities alluded to. *(Hear!)*

MR. SAURIN'S LETTER TO LORD NORBURY.

Mr. Brougham alluded to a letter said to be written by Mr. Saurin, when Attorney-General of Ireland, to Lord Norbury, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The letter included extracts from a letter of a Peer of the Realm (Lord Rosse) suggesting to the Learned Judge to make use of his official situation, when going circuit, to intermingle himself with political discussion, and especially with matters affecting that House, as being connected with the returns of Members to Parliament.—He (Mr. B.) called upon his Majesty's Government for some explanation, and wished to learn whether the letter was authentic.

Mr. Peel was not prepared to admit or dispute its genuineness; but as this was a private letter, said to have been found in the public streets, he would rather ten thousand times over have been the writer of it, even though it were ten thousand times worse than it

actually was, than the person who had made so infamous and disgraceful use of it, as to publish it to the world. *(Cries of hear!)*.

Mr. BROUGHAM observed, that nothing could justify a violation of private confidence; but as the letter had gained publicity, it was a fit subject for Parliament to demand inquiry and explanation upon.

After some further remarks, it was understood that Mr. PEEL would make inquiry into the subject.

SALT DUTIES.

Mr. CURWEN made several remarks on the retention of the remnant of the Salt Tax, which he thought could be only for the purpose of patronage; and he concluded by moving that the duties on Salt shall be no longer payable.

This motion was supported by several Members, but opposed by Mr. VANSITTART and Lord LONDONDERRY, who said that if this tax was wholly relinquished, they could not repeal a portion of the Leather Tax.

On a division, Mr. CURWEN's motion was negatived by a majority of 12 only—there being 92 for, and 104 against it.

The Alien Bill was proceeded in; and 9,425l. were voted to the British Museum.—Adjourned.—[The Budget will be brought forward on Monday.]

LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, June 25.

BANKRUPTS.

R. and H. Lucas, Southampton, linen-drapers. Solicitor, Mr. Clarke, Warnford-court.

S. Garrod, Paddington-street, St. Marylebone, bookseller. Solicitor, Mr. Hill, Welbeck-street.

G.W. Reeve, Craven-buildings, Drury-lane, dealer in music. Solicitor, Mr. Hubert, Clement's-inn.

J. Davies, late of Carmarthen, spirit-merchant. Solicitors, Messrs. Clarke and Co. Chancery-lane.

Saturday, June 29.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

R. Brooke, Walcot, Somerset, common-brewer.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Cattell, Cotton-end, Warwick, mealman. Solicitor, Mr. Richardson, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

W. Heydon, South Audley-street, plumber. Solicitor, Mr Greenwood, Manchester-street, Manchester-square.

T. Farquharson, Lime-street, City, merchant. Solicitor, Mr. Score, Tokenhouse-yard.

J. Cragg, Whitehaven, ironmonger. Solicitor, Mr. Clennell, Staple's-inn.

S. Mendham, Bryanstone-street, Portman-square, merchant Solicitor, Mr. Eicke, Cornhill.

T. Deighton, Davies-street, Berkeley-square, saddler. Solicitor, Mr. Hunt, Surrey-street, Strand.

D. Griffin, Walworth, linen-draper. Solicitor, Mr. Jones, Sise-lane, Queen-street.

J. C. Ridgway, Old Kent-road, Surrey, linen-draper. Solicitors, Messrs. Shepherd and Pacey, Bartlett's-buildings.

J. Harris, Bristol, lithographer. Solicitors, Messrs. Bridges and Quilter, Red Lion-square.

B. Ellis, Leicester, wool-stapler. Solicitors, Messrs. Holme, Frampton, and Loftus, New-inn.

THE FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the confidence with which the duration of peace is asserted, a something of doubt seems to pervade the Money Market. Yesterday was a holiday at the Bank, but the Stock Exchange remaining open, many sales were effected, and a sort of panic was visible, which was attributed to an idea that the Porte is merely gaining time, and that Russia will be forced into hostilities after all. In consequence of this impression, or other causes, Consols were depressed nearly two per cent. in the course of the morning. Latest quotation (Friday).

Three per Cent. Red. 80 11/16 1/8	New Four per Cents. 98 1/8
Four per Cents. 97 11/16 1/8	Consols for Account 81 1/4

Yesterday being also settling day in the Foreign Market much animation was exhibited, although no great deal of momentous business was transacted.—Chili Bonds, 80; Spanish Bonds, 61 1/4; Russian, 82 1/4.—Little business done in the others.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JUNE 30.

THE news from Turkey is quite appalling. No less than eighty or ninety respectable Greek merchants have been murdered in cold blood by order of the Turkish Government, to whose savage fury there now seems no limits. Does any one suppose that a determined tone on the part of the principal Christian powers would not long since have put an end to these abominations? And if it be said, that England is not in a state to assume such a tone, lest it might lead to war, which it is not in her power to wage,—we ask, is not that nation reduced to a disgraceful state, which cannot perform a bounden duty to its fellow men, because its resources have been wantonly lavished, and its strength exhausted, by long wars in support of legitimacy and despotism? We need not ask who are the men that have thus reduced a great people to become little better than quiet spectators of these repeated horrors. It is true, that scenes of woe even still more afflicting, are exhibited within the British empire, in which our own brethren are the unhappy sufferers. This state of things, too, has arisen under the rule of the same Statesmen, who have thus made the nation incapable abroad, and but too many of its inhabitants wretched at home. To be cut off by the sword of the executioner, as the miserable Greeks are, is afflicting enough; but what language can depict the slow, consuming, and heart-rending sufferings experienced by the thousands of men, women, and children, now actually starving in ill-governed and groaning Ireland? Let any one read the following letter, and he will be satisfied that human misery has reached its extreme height in that ill-starred land:—

LETTER RECEIVED BY THE LIVERPOOL COMMITTEE.

"*Ballinakill Parish, June* 19, 1822.

"REV. SIR,—I beg leave to inform you, that there have died within these two days past in this parish, of actual starvation, fifteen persons, and I fear from the state I have seen them, in administering the rites of the church to them, that four times that number are past recovery. I am sorry also to have to observe to you, that fever is encreasing to an alarming degree; there are at least in my parish 150 now suffering under that disease, and I have remarked it is those that suffered most from hunger that are afflicted.—With respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Rev. Sir, your most obedient servant, THOS. LOFTUS, P.P.

"*To the Rev. C. Seymour, Clifden.*"

The debates of the week have been very animated and important. Mr. BROUGHAM's Speech, on the increased influence of the Crown, was unquestionably one of the most searching, useful, comprehensive, and convincing harangues uttered of late years within the walls of Parliament, where it was of course received in the usual way; but without those walls the effect of it was most powerful, and will be highly beneficial. The *Courier* indeed could only see that it was "a long-winded oration." Long it certainly was; for how could so prolific a topic as Ministerial influence be very briefly handled? And that the *Courier* would have been better pleased had it been shorter, we can readily conceive. Had there been no *such* speech at all, the satisfaction of the Government scribe, we are quite sure, would not have been small. Lord LONDONDERRY, too, liked the object of Mr. BROUGHAM's motion as little as his man of the *Courier* did his speech, for it pointed to Reform,—a word of horrid import in Borough-mongering and seat-selling ears. The Honourable House partook of the Noble Secretary's alarm, and by its overwhelming vote came to the following marvellous conclusions:—"That the influence possessed by the Crown *is* necessary for maintaining its constitutional prerogative—is *not* destructive of the independence of Parliament—and is *not* inconsistent with the well government of the State."—Bravo, Honourable House!

Upon the heels of this admirable exposure of the means of corruption possessed by men in power, followed another, equally striking, of their scandalous

practices. The LORD ADVOCATE of Scotland, a high Government officer, the chosen preserver of the peace, and the public prosecutor of all offenders,—was convicted,—yes, convicted,—on the clearest evidence, of having lent his name and influence, and given his money, for the support of two Scotch newspapers, notorious for their daring violations of the laws, and their infamous assaults and libels upon the private as well as public characters of the political opponents of Ministers. Never, certainly, since Lord CASTLEREAGH was in like manner convicted of trafficking in seats, did a man high in office cut a more deplorable figure than that which the LORD ADVOCATE exhibited on Tuesday. His defence, too—what a defence! That a generally cautious, calculating, and active politician and lawyer should have *forgotten* that he had set his name to a paper recommending one political publication—that he should give his money to establish and support another, and yet *never read it*, though expressly set up to advocate the opinions held by the Learned Lord and his Colleagues, and to curb and put down the *licentious* Scotch press—that he should have believed that Mr. BORTHWICK was justly charged with theft, and have known nothing of the outrageous and most brutal treatment of that injured individual,—are things that strike us as altogether impossible; and the urging of them in the way of defence, we are satisfied, would have excited the scorn and derision of any other body of men but that assemblage of "collective wisdom" to whom they were addressed, and by whom they were so completely received.—No matter: the House of Commons may vote down all such inquiries, and refuse to act upon such exposures; but the eyes of the people are steadily fixed upon the corrupt system and its selfish supporters; and though Messrs. BROUGHAM and ABERCROMBY have failed *in* the House, they triumph out of it in every disinterested quarter, and may therefore rest satisfied that they "have done the State some service."

Next day, Mr. CREEVEY, manfully seconded by Mr. BENNETT, occasioned a very edifying exhibition of

"Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage,"—

In the person of the Noble Secretary for Foreign Affairs, by their vigorous attack on the profligate Pension scheme, and its very noble and right greedy upholders. How the immaculate Marquis was rebuked and calmed by Mr. BROUGHAM, will be seen in our brief report.—With these day-after-day assaults and exposures, Ministers have had one of the warmest weeks during the Session.

The papers from the Continent yesterday contained no news of importance.

By the *Kent* East Indiaman, letters dated the 25th of February were received on Thursday from Canton, conveying the intelligence that the differences with the Chinese have been amicably adjusted.

There is, we repeat, no truth whatever in the reports endeavoured to be circulated, of the refusal of the Porte to evacuate Moldavia and Wallachia, and of the probability of war breaking out between Russia and Turkey. All the authentic advices from Constantinople and Vienna are entirely pacific. The last accounts from Vienna state—"That the Reis-Effendi, who had originally only given a verbal assurance of the intended evacuation of the Principalities, has transmitted to each of the Ministers of the Allied Powers, a copy of the order sent by the Divan to recal the Asiatic troops, and to adopt every measure necessary to prevent vexations and disorders from being committed in their retreat."—*Courier.*

A most heart-rending appeal has been made to the people of this country from the few remaining inhabitants of the lately flourishing Isle of Scio. What a picture! A whole population destroyed or carried into slavery by the ruthless Turks, the island one scene of smoking devastation. They appeal to our charity—they reproach us not with their calamity; but for how much of it are not we accountable? Have not we both emboldened their bloody enemy, and furnished him with the means of destruction."

We made yesterday, from the Scotch Papers, several extracts, from which it would appear that his Majesty intended to honour Scotland with a visit this summer. The intelligence is incorrect. We have just been informed, that his Majesty will not proceed to Scotland this summer, nor will his Majesty visit the Continent.—*Courier.*

It is said, that in the discussion on the Catholic Peers' Bill in the House of Lords, the Duke of York (who had been sitting on the Woolsack deeply engaged in conversation with the Lord Chancellor, before the latter rose) applauded, so violently, all the passages of the Noble and Learned Lord's speech offensive to the Catholics, as frequently to excite the particular attention of the House.

The case of the Bowditches, it will be seen, has been again mentioned in Parliament by Mr. Hobhouse. They boast that in England there can be no wrong without a remedy. Now here a great wrong has been done, no less than the ruin of an aged and respectable female and her family, who have been unjustly imprisoned, and suffered a loss of property that has involved them in great distress—and all because Judges and Jurors were deceived by the hardy swearing and artful conduct of Miss Glenn and her instructors.—Would it not be a very becoming act, if those Judges whose erroneous judgment has been the occasion of so much injury to a whole family, were to make up such a sum for them, as would assist to restore them to their former condition?

ONE OF THE CLOTH.—A parson named Hadwen, the curate of Boston, being with a party at Freiston Shore on Thursday afternoon the 20th, ran, quite naked, after some ladies who were taking an airing, and also stood, in the same state, upon the bank opposite the bow-window of Mr. Plummer's house, at which the visitors to the shore frequently take their sitting.—*Stamford News.*

The number of suicides which took place at Paris in 1821 was 348, in 1820, 325.

Three of the parties concerned in the late extraordinary exhibition at the Police Office, are said to be, Miss Bartolozzi, sister to Mad. Vestris; Mr. Best, who fought the duel with Lord Camelford; and Lord P., "a nobleman (says a daily paper), whose chief points are a queer-shaped hat—long shirt sleeves, exquisitely starched—very white gloves—a very low cabriolet—and a Lord George Gordonish affectation of beard."

Mrs. Wright's trials are fixed for next Friday, at Guildhall. The prosecution is by the Vice Society, for selling "blasphemy" in Carlile's shop. One of the indictments, we hear, will be defended by an eminent barrister, the other she will defend herself.

A duel took place on Friday morning, on Finchley Common, between Capt. N—s, and Mr. M—d—s, in consequence of a dispute at the Opera. The first fire was without effect, in the second the Captain was slightly wounded in the side, but not so as to prevent him walking away.

The "Princess of Cumberland," it seems,—whether she is or is not entitled to redress, has no sort of chance of obtaining it by any legal process. The King, it appears, cannot be *compelled* to do justice in England. There is something in this sort of doctrine highly repulsive to our notions of what is reasonable and useful. How the Americans must chuckle, when reading Sir John Nichol's long list of authorities in favour of the Royal right to allow of wrong.

On Tuesday, as the "Princess of Cumberland" was about to proceed to Doctors' Commons to be present at the decision on his late Majesty's Will, she was removed by a writ of *Habeas Corpus* to the King's Bench, in the rules of which she is now placed.

A rescript has been issued by the Pope, strongly enforcing the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

HAYMARKET (*Monday*).

On Monday evening, a new after-piece came out at this Theatre, entitled *Love-Letters*, evidently a translation from the French, and as light as a feather. The scene is laid in the environs of Paris, where *La Fleur* and *Friponey*, the one an honest light-hearted young farmer, we believe, and the other a rogue of a valet (JOHNSON and OXBERRY) are in love with *Lisette*, the fascinating little waiting-woman (Madame VESTRIS) of a young lady who is secretly married to a gallant officer. The first act is made up of the endeavours of *Friponey* to produce a quarrel between *La Fleur*, his favoured rival, and *Lisette*, which he does by picking his pocket of a billet-doux from his mistress, which she is then persuaded he has exposed out of vanity. The scheme is, however, defeated, and the schemer tricked in his turn. The equivoque of the second act turns upon the loss of a letter from the military lover to his mistress, owing to the ingenuity of a drunken servant, who for safety places it in his shoe, like *Tom Pipes* in *Peregrine Pickle*, and thereby defacing it, schemes with *Friponey* to write another, precisely in the manner of the self-same novel. Now the young lady, to prevent her lover's letters from falling into the hands of her father, has them addressed to *Lisette*, to whose husband, *La Fleur*, the renovated epistle is delivered half an hour after they are married. This second love-letter blunder of course produces another *embarras*, which is rapidly cleared up, and the piece concludes.

The less we say of this trifle the better, for it has nothing at all to recommend it but the acting, which was very respectable. Madame VESTRIS was a most attracting *fille de chambre*, and the *La Fleur* of JOHNSON was a very *naive* and lively piece of acting. A duet between these two, "When a little farm we keep," another version of "When great Lords and Ladies come to visit you and I," in the *Haunted Tower*, was exceedingly humourous, and very pleasantly sung and acted. OXBERRY was by no means at home. Mr. LEONI LEE and Mrs. GARRICK had only to sing some light common-place music, which they did very passably;—and so much for *Love-Letters*, upon which we need only observe further, that we think the French language might have been ransacked to a much better result.

SAME THEATRE (*Friday*).

Not having seen the performance of *Mrs. Haller* by Mrs. W. CLIFFORD, from the Bath Theatre, last week, we attended its repetition on Friday evening. Of this lady, we may generally report favourably. Her conception of the character was that of a woman of judgment and experience; and if she shewed few of those finer shades and workings, which it is the especial province of genius to elicit, she was never at a fault. The person of Mrs. CLIFFORD is mature and imposing, the countenance full, but not peculiarly expressive. Upon the whole, we should pronounce her delineation of *Mrs. Haller* forcible and correct, but not finely discriminative. The *Stranger* of CHARLES KEMBLE caught the house exceedingly, and deservedly so; it was an admirable performance, a little weakened, possibly, by somewhat too much aim at pathos in passages, but generally sound and excellent.

Covent-Garden Theatre, which closed last night, has been taken up all the week with benefits. We believe the season may be termed a very effective one for the proprietors. We wish we could say as much for Drury-Lane; but we have reason to believe that matters have not been quite so bad even there as they have appeared to be; in other words, that the economy has been so clever, very middling houses have paid. No Theatre can, however, go on long upon this principle, and therefore we are glad to hear that Mr. ELLISTON, who, as we learn from the meeting of Drury-Lane Proprietors, is to continue the lessee, intends to make great alterations next season, both in beautifying and adapting the house, and in the enlargement of his corps. Magnificent manner, and august assumption, may conceal real deficiencies and inadequacies for a time, but they must uniformly fail in the end, and Mr. ELLISTON has found it so—not perhaps unprofitably, if the hint be taken, and the future evince a due consideration of the lessons afforded by the past. Q.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

THE lights perhaps are a little scattered in Mr. PHILLIPS' *Portrait of Lady A. Beckett;* but in this as in *Sir B. Hobhouse, the Masters Glasbrook*, and indeed in all his portraits, there is a decision of pencil, a purity of colour, and an interesting naturalness of look and action, that must satisfy the most scrupulous critic.

Mr. PICKERSGILL has been for several seasons past approaching nearer to the high station in portraiture occupied by several of our Painters. His pictures in this Exhibition shew that he has now reached it; but we hope that he will look not only to the advantages which the successful practice of this branch of Art will bring to his finances, but that he will go on to cherish abilities his beautiful *Cupid* (244) assures us that he possesses for the superior branches of his noble profession.

The want of breadth in Mr. RIPPINGILLE's picture, *A Recruiting Party*, so universally admired for its entertaining variety and masterly power of character, is a foil to the well understood breadth of Mr. WITHERINGTON's picture near it, *the Dancing Bear;* a picture, like that of Mr. DANBY's *Clearing up after a Shower*, 325, that shews the sudden and earnest impulses of children from trivial causes, with a most amusing accuracy. But Mr. WITHERINGTON's colour is on a par with these beauties, while Mr. DANBY's has a jaundiced hue beyond the sometimes sickly shining out of the sun from a showery sky, which it represents.

Mr. COLLINS must avoid a disposition to relax in that neat-finishing of foliage, and cheerful colour, which graced most of his former pictures. A heavy, melancholy, neutral, or olive kind of tint overshadows some of his pictures, here cheered, it is true, by occasional bursts of sunshine. In 33, *Scene near Chichester*, the shadows are charmingly balanced by the sun, which shines on three beautiful children—a boy and market girl on horseback stopping to chat with a girl filling a pail from a brook. The grey sobriety of tone in 208, *Bayham Abbey, a Seat of the Marquis Camden, during the celebration of a Fête*, is in excellent keeping with the retired scene,—the shattered abbey, the umbrage, the grass, and the clear cool water. The sentiment produced by this silent sequestration, and the contrasted circumstance of the distantly seen fête, is beautifully encreased by the fishing rod and bait-box left solitarily on its shore.

It is impossible to give a settled opinion of Mr. LONSDALE's portraits, because of their height in the room, but they appear to be painted with an Artist-like and Nature-felt power worthy of the distinguished characters painted—*Mr. Brougham, Sir H. Davy, the Bishop of Norwich, &c.*

We have seen a beautiful copy (attributed to A. CARACCI) from RAFFAELLE, and now on sale in London, representing *Joseph telling his Dream to his Brethren;* but even after feasting on this rarity, we find an acceptable relish in Mr. STOTHARD's similar subject,—*Joseph telling his Dream to his Father.*

The bright and beautiful colour and composition of Lady LONG's *View in Paris*, indicate from their style, who it is of our Artists that the Painter is partial to, and also that Nature and herself have a cordial partiality for each other.

There is a counterbalance of some good colour to the hardness of Mr. JACKSON's *Portrait of Lady G. Herbert*. His *Portrait of Miss Stephens*, affords a capital example to the Student in Portrait-painting, of the tints of flesh, and of a bright and harmonious spread of warm and cold colours.

1006, *Devotion*, J. BACON, is a monumental evidence that genius is not like names and rank, hereditary.—The lip of sensibility moves in praise before the improved talent of Mr. HOPPER, in 1046, a monumental marble figure prostrate in anguish.—A strong resemblance is the least praise of the fine *Bust of Mr. Tierney*, by Mr. BEUNES.—With nerve of execution in 1005, *Bust of Mr. Scott*, by Mr. FRANCIS, we recognize a strong likeness of that inimitable Engraver of animals.—Mr. GAHAGAN's *Bust of G. Cholmondeley, Esq.* is much above ordinary regard; and that of Dr. HUTTON, presented to him as a testimony of high esteem by a number of scientific friends, is worthy of the honourable occasion. Mr. WESTMACOTT is an example of the immense advantages of a well-directed application to a difficult pursuit. Till within a few years his performances hardly reached mediocrity. His intellectual wing, like a common domestic fowl's, rose heavily. Now, if he has not the strong and lofty eagle's pinion, he moves very gracefully.—989, *The Houseless Traveller,—a distressed Mother and her Infant*, would make sigh-heaving Pity, as it makes Reflection and Taste, stand with folded arm and admiring eye before it. Were we to see his *Psyche*, 987, among the Greek and Roman Statues in the British Museum, the magic of her ripening beauty would prevent our admiration from being absorbed by the magic of the antique. She is indeed "a Help-meet" for the young God of Love.—Of Eve, consecrated in our hearts to admiration and love, by MILTON's description of her perfections, nothing far short of the consummation of Art will justify a Sculptor's representation: we cannot therefore be satisfied with Mr. ROSSI's *Eve looking at herself in the Lake*, 990.—Mr. BAILY's *Eve at the Fountain*, 986, starting at the sight of herself "in the watery gleam," leads our thoughts agreeably back to his great progenitors in the divine Art of Sculpture in ancient Greece. It reminds us of an expressive but inaccurate line of the illustrious Patriot and Poet just mentioned:—

"The fairest of her daughters, Eve."

NEWSPAPER CHAT.

The new London Bridge is to be erected as nearly as possible to, and not exceeding 170 feet from, the west side of the present bridge, and to afford a clear water-way of not less than 690 feet. It is to be faced with granite, and to consist of five arches; the centre arch to rise 23 feet above high water mark of an average spring tide. Proper stairs of granite are to be provided. The acclivity of the road-way, to and over the bridge, is not to be steeper than one foot in 26 feet.

SINGULAR CHACE.—On Sunday morning, between eleven and twelve o'clock, two Life Guardsmen crossing Hyde-park, started a hare from one of the gravel-pits. The park was crowded with people, and poor puss was stopped in every direction she took, and drove back, worried by several small dogs. In this manner she continued at least 20 minutes, to the great amusement of the spectators, till at last she made a bold effort, rushed amongst the crowd towards the Duke of Wellington's garden, the walls of which she scaled, and obtained shelter from her pursuers.

LEGAL SYMPATHIES.—It is said of a former flinty-hearted Recorder of London, that he was never known to shed a tear but once, and that was produced by the bitter disappointment occasioned by the reprieve of *Macheath*, in *The Beggar's Opera*. It is no less remarkable a trait in the Chancellor's character, that he never appears to have been moved by the harsh treatment of any human being under judicial or other authority, of past or present times, except in one instance, that of the spotless informer, the veracious, scrupulous person, Titus Oates. "As for Titus Oates, he was hardly dealt with by Judge Jeffreys." So said the Chancellor, in his speech on the Roman Catholic Peers' Bill, and this is, we believe, the only instance in which he has been brought to question a rigour beyond the law. Had the Chancellor lived, as he seems peculiarly fitted to have lived, under the Stuarts of happy memory, we might have fancied him remonstrating with his brother Jeffreys in favour of the informer, much in the same strain and manner that *Peachum* uses with brother *Locket*—"Indeed, indeed, brother, we must spare our spies, or we shall get no information."—*Morning Chronicle*.

A medical publication mentions that two persons, a shopkeeper and one of his customers, had been lately poisoned by drinking each a glass of Noyeau of *double the usual strength*. The kernels of cherries, peaches, and apricots, as well as sweet and bitter almonds, from which noyeau, ratafia, and black cherry-water, derive their flavour, contain a portion of the prussic acid, which, when in a concentrated state, is a deadly poison, and this fatal catastrophe is attributed to the presence of an undue share of this deleterious preparation.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—We are glad to see that this theatre is by no means in the embarrassed situation which some supposed. At a Meeting of the Proprietors on the 22nd instant, Mr. Calcraft spoke of Mr. Elliston with great commendation. He had not only paid the rent of 10,200*l.* but there was at the banker's 1,100*l.* for the free-renters, arising from extra nights. They had also realized the other part of their income from houses and offices. The utmost expectations of the Committee had been fulfilled. Mr. Elliston intended to make great alterations, and introduce further embellishments in the theatre, during the recess, which, added to the industrious efforts he was making to improve the company, would render it as attractive as it ever had been in the annals of theatrical history. As far as such property was concerned, nothing could be more promising or more cheering.

IMITATION.—A young painter having drawn a picture in the bad manner of his master, showed it to Raphael, and asked him what he thought of it? I think, says Raphael, if you knew nothing, you would soon know something.

EXERCISE.—In the mind, as in the body, those parts only are strong that are exercised; the legs of chairmen and the arms of labourers make this evident. If the muscles of *reason* in the Men of the Law are commonly weak, it is because they have little exercise.—*Helvetius*.

COURT SERMONS.—The usual length of a Sermon preached at the Chapel Royal is 20 minutes. This, it seems, was too long for Geo. II. who once told Archbishop Gilbert to see that those preached before him should be particularly short; giving this complimentary reason for his desire, that when they were long—that is, 20 minutes,—he was in danger of falling asleep! The sermons were in consequence abridged in the delivery 5 minutes; and the King sometimes said to the Clerk of the Closet, "A short good sermon."—His Majesty, though "he could not abide boets and bainters," agreed in this respect with the great Bard, that brevity was the soul of wit.

IMPERIAL BON-MOT.—Charles V. who had so long distinguished himself as a persecutor of all who differed from the orthodox faith, appears in his retirement to have come to his senses on the subject of intolerance. He had 30 watches on his table, and observing that no two of them marked the same time, he exclaimed, "How could I imagine that in matters of religion I could make all men think alike!—A servant carelessly entering his cell, threw down all the watches. The Emperor laughed, and said, "You are more lucky than I, for you have found the way to make them all go together."

NOBILITY.—If we admit that there was a first man, we must all be of the same House, of a family equally ancient, and consequently all Noble. Prior writes—

"Nobles and heralds, by your leave,
"Here lie the bones of Matthew Prior,
"The son of Adam and of Eve;
"Let Bourbon or Nassau go higher."

MATHEWS RIVALLED.—Sir Wm. Petty (the founder, we believe, of the Lansdowne family) is described by Mr. Evelyn as "having such a faculty of imitating others, that he would take a text and preach, now like a grave orthodox divine, then falling into the Presbyterian way, then to the fanatical, the quaker, the monk and friar, the Popish priest, with such admirable action and alteration of voice and tone, as it was not possible to abstain from wonder; and one would swear to hear several persons, or forbear to think he was not in good earnest an enthusiast and almost beside himself: then he would fall out of it into a serious discourse;—but it was very rarely he would be prevailed on to oblige the company with this faculty, and that only amongst most intimate friends. My Lord Duke of Ormond once obtained it of him, and was almost ravished with admiration; but by and by he fell upon a serious reprimand of the faults and miscarriages of *some* Princes and Governors, which, though he named none, did so sensibly touch the Duke, who was then Lieutenant of Ireland, that he began to be very uneasy, and wished the Spirit laid that he had raised, for he was neither able to endure such truths, nor could he but be delighted! At last he melted his discourse to a ridiculous subject, and came down from the joint stool on which he had stood: but my Lord would not have him preach any more!"—Speaking of his mind, Mr. Evelyn says, he had never known such another genius

—there was nothing impenetrable to him. He was averse from show, though he had risen to great wealth; was negligent of himself, and of a philosophic temper: but his Lady could endure nothing that was not magnificent. "What a to-do is here! (would he say:) I can lie on straw with as much satisfaction."

A GRACIOUS PRINCE.—Mr. Roper, son-in-law of Sir Thomas More, congratulating the latter on his having received a visit from Henry VIII. Sir Thomas answered, "I thank the King's grace; but albeit he is a *gracious* Prince, if my head could win him a castle in France, it would not be long on these shoulders."

A TYRANT'S COURT.—"That Officers of the Privy Chamber shall be loving together, keeping secret everything said or done; leaving hearkening or enquiring where the King is or goes, be it early or late; without grudging, mumbling, or talking of the King's pastime, late or early going to bed, or any other matter.—That the six Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber shall have a vigilant and reverend eye and respect to his Grace (the King;) so that by his *look* or *countenance* they may know what he lacketh, or what is his pleasure to be had or done."—*Henry VIII's Statutes of Eltham.*

SEDITIOUS INTERLUDE.—In the year 1527, a Christmas Interlude was performed at Gray's-inn, of which the argument was, that *Lord Governance* was ruled by *Lady Dissipation* and *Lady Negligence*; by whose misrule *Lady Public Weale* was put from *Governance*, which caused *Rumor Populi* to rise *vi et armis* to expel *Negligence* and restore *Public Weale* to her Castle.—This piece was greatly applauded; but the Author was seized by order of the Government of Henry VIII. and committed to prison; which of course proved that the satirist was in the wrong!

TEMPERANCE.

Now hear what blessings Temperance can bring;
Thus said our friend, and what he said, I sing:—
First, Health: the stomach (cram'd from ev'ry dish,
A tomb of boil'd and roast, and flesh and fish,
Where bile and wind and phlegm and acid jar,
And all the man is one intestine war)
Remembers oft the schoolboy's simple fare,
The temperate sleeps, and spirits light as air.

POPE.

LAW.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,

Saturday, June 22.

THE KING *v.* CUNDICK.

The Defendant was this day brought up for judgment, having been convicted of a misdemeanour, arising out of the following circumstances:—The Defendant was undertaker at Horsemonger-lane jail, and was employed to bury the body of a man named Lees, who had suffered the sentence of the law. The funeral took place in due course, and he made a charge of 3*l.* to the county for doing the *needful*. In consequence of some suspicious circumstances, however, especially his refusal to suffer the relations of the deceased to see the body, enquiry was set on foot, the coffin was taken up and opened, when it was found to be filled with rubbish; and, on further investigation, it turned out that the Defendant had sold the body for a certain sum to Mr. Brooks, the celebrated anatomist, in whose dissecting room it was found.

The COURT sentenced him to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, at Brixton, for six months, and to pay a fine of 20*l.* to the King.

PREROGATIVE COURT.

Wednesday, June 26.

IN THE GOODS OF HIS LATE MAJESTY—CLAIM OF THE PRINCESS OLIVE OF CUMBERLAND.

Sir JOHN NICHOL gave judgment this day in this curious case. He entered at considerable length into the question, quoting a number of legal authorities to show that the King was supreme head of the realm, dependant on no man, and accountable to no man—that every subject was divested of remedy, in case the King should invade his rights either by private injury or oppression;—but that if any man had a just demand against the King, he must petition him in his Court of Chancery through his Chancellor, who would endeavour to influence and persuade, but could not command justice. The King could not only do no wrong, but he was incapable of thinking wrong;—for the law would not treat the Supreme Magistrate with fallibility (although as a man he must be subject to the same infirmities as other men) but that such a charge against the dignity of the Prince might lessen him in the eyes of his subjects As the fountain of justice, he is supposed to be present in all his Courts, possessing ubiquity, although personally he may not dispense justice.—The Learned Judge, having gone over a series of other authorities, to show that the Legislature had never contemplated that the reigning Sovereign should be subject to the jurisdiction of the superior Courts, and much less to this, which was an inferior Court, concluded by adverting to the argument of Dr. Lushington, that it would have been a mockery to give the power to his late Majesty to make a Will, unless that Will could be carried into execution, came to the decision, that it would be presumption in this Court, and high disrespect, to suppose the Sovereign could exercise any power of defeasance, since he could only have a wish of doing justice, and must be supposed incapable of doing any injustice. There was no doubt there were proper tribunals to remedy any real injustice in this case; but whatever that justice might be, this Court did not presume to decide; but simply upon the question of jurisdiction, this Court having determined that it was bound by law to reject the present question, on the ground that *it had no jurisdiction.*

PALACE COURT,

Saturday, June 22.

WESTMINSTER SCHOLARS.—DEERHURST *v.* MARKHAM.

In April last, the Plaintiff, a youth, apprenticed to a surgeon, and the son of a poor widow, was looking at the boats landing their passengers at the Westminster stairs, when one approached in which there were several Westminster Scholars. They were playing together, and one of them, the Defendant, a son of Admiral Markham, fell into the water. The Plaintiff laughed at the accident, which so irritated the Defendant, that he went up to him and demanded what he was laughing at? The Plaintiff replied, he could not help smiling, but he had no idea of giving offence; and if he had, he was exceedingly sorry for it. This apology neither satisfied the Defendant nor his associates, who set up a shout of "Mill him, Markham—mill him!" The Plaintiff was a weak, sickly boy, by no means a match for the Defendant, who directly struck at him with all his might, and dashed his head against a barge. The Plaintiff retreated; he was followed and overtaken by the scholars, when the Defendant beat him again. He told them their conduct was that of blackguards, not gentlemen; and he at last found shelter in a house, when the Defendant went away. Not content, however, with what he had done, he watched the Plaintiff's coming out, and again assaulted him at the corner of Dean's-yard, beating him till he was covered with blood. The Plaintiff fell at the door of a shop, quite faint, and incapable of making the least resistance. He was taken in and protected by the woman of the house. The consequence of this brutal usage was the rupture of a blood-vessel; for a month the Plaintiff was so ill that he could not attend the lectures at Mr. Brookes's, and he was marked on the face from the injuries he had received.—Mr. PHILLIPS (the Plaintiff's Counsel) said, that neither on the part of Admiral Markham, the Master of the School, nor the Defendant himself, had the slightest apology been offered; and he called upon the Jury to give an adequate compensation.—After some witnesses had been examined, and Counsel heard, the Jury gave a verdict for the Plaintiff, with 50*l.* damages—all in fact that were claimed. [Dr. Goodenough was in Court during the proceedings. The Defendant's friends had let judgment go by default, so there was no attempt to justify.]

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

On Friday week, an application was made for a warrant for the apprehension of Miss B. a young lady, the sister of an actress of great celebrity, for stealing China cups and chimney ornaments. The charge was preferred by her mother. It was represented in justification of resorting to so harsh a measure, that Miss B. had eloped, and unless she was reclaimed that evening, her ruin would be consummated. The warrant was granted, and placed in the hands of one of the principal officers, who in the evening brought her before the Magistrate. She entered the office leaning on the arm of Mr. B. a gentleman well known in the fashionable world, and her appearance was exceedingly prepossessing. Her mother entered the office nearly at the same time, accompanied by Mr. C. an eminent solicitor. Miss B. was permitted to stand in front of the bench, a place usually allotted to witnesses. She appeared very much agitated and embarrassed. The officer here produced a number of cups and saucers, and some chimney ornaments, which had been found in the lodgings occupied by Miss B.—Mrs. B. then stated, that the several articles produced belonged to her, and that her daughter had stolen them.—Miss B. asserted that the things belonged to her; that she had purchased them she could prove by the testimony of her servant, who was then called. She deposed to being present when Miss B. purchased the cups and

saucers, and heard Mrs. B. remonstrate with her daughter for spending her money in so foolish a manner; and when the witness was sent to bring them away from the mother's house, not the slightest objection was made.—Miss B. being urged to speak for herself, burst into tears, and said—"I cannot; indeed I cannot." The Magistrate desired her to compose herself, and she said, after some hesitation, "I do not think I am bound to preserve silence, since my own conduct needs be justified. The reason which forced me from my mother's house, was the continued persecutions I received from the addresses of Lord P." Miss B. further stated, that her mother had frequently advised her to become Lord P.'s mistress, who would, in that case, settle on her 500*l.* a-year for life, and it was her mother's continually urging her to accede to this proposal that determined her to leave her home. Mrs. B. denied this, and accused her daughter of several indiscretions, and mutual recriminations were exchanged, which the Magistrate ended by asking how old Miss B. was; and being told that she was fifteen, said he was exceedingly shocked that a girl so young should have experienced what she had, if belief was to be attached to the allegations of Miss B. A parent had manifested an intention to connive at the prostitution of her child: he did not wish to proceed any farther; he had nothing to do with it. Miss B. protested that she would not go home with her mother, and it was afterwards agreed that she should be placed under the care of a female friend. The parties then left the office.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

Executions.—At an early hour on Wednesday morning, an immense number of persons assembled in the Old Bailey, to witness the execution of *John Lomas*, for uttering forged notes; *Robert Crawley* and *John Neumhier*, for highway robbery. On the time arriving for divesting them of their irons, Lomas had his knocked off first; and with the exception of his saying "Gentlemen, let me assist you," preserved the utmost taciturnity. The other culprits underwent the same ceremony; and a short time having been spent in devotion, the Sheriffs proceeded towards the fatal drop, when Lomas was first ushered on the scaffold, where he behaved with great firmness. The three culprits being now on the scaffold, and every preparation complete, the drop fell, and the world closed on the unfortunate men for ever. Lomas was several minutes before he was dead, and appeared to suffer much. The greatest interest has been exerted in his behalf. The other two were notorious thieves, and about 500 of their fraternity attended to witness their exit.

Thursday afternoon, an inquisition was taken on the body of *Mr. T. Bollond*, at the private house of the deceased, No. 16, Great Distaff-lane, Doctors' Commons: he was a wine-merchant of great opulence; for some days back he had been observed to exhibit strong symptoms of a disordered mind. On Wednesday he was found in his chamber with his head nearly severed from his body; his arms were also cut across: on one side of him lay the dressing-glass, and on the other a razor besmeared with clotted blood, with which he had committed the fatal act.—Verdict—Insanity.

Saturday week, an inquisition was taken on the body of *Mr. Cooke*, late a partner in the Castle Ale Brewery, Bloomsbury. The Jury was impanelled in the deceased's late dwelling-house, in Duke-street. Mr. Cooke shot himself through the head with a pistol. Verdict—That the deceased laid violent hands upon himself, being insane at the time.

Friday night, between ten and eleven o'clock, a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. White, boat-builder, Rotherhithe. The flames continued raging with the utmost fury for about 20 minutes, when the premises were entirely destroyed. About this time the adjoining premises, occupied by Mr. Evans as a granary, which were very extensive and heavily stored, took fire, and burnt so furiously as to bid defiance to all exertion to extinguish it; and the whole of those buildings and stores were also entirely destroyed. The Old Justice public-house caught fire, but was soon extinguished by the exertions of the firemen; had this house been consumed, the consequence must have been dreadful, as the adjoining buildings are all of wood, and in so confined a situation as to render it almost impossible to afford any assistance. The property destroyed is very great, and, it is said, not insured to near the amount.

Another fire broke out on Friday, between one and two o'clock, in the premises of Mr. Fearn, silversmith, corner of Adam-street, Adelphi, which in a short time entirely consumed the same, together with a great part of the property.

On Wednesday morning, about two o'clock, the cry of "murder" was heard on Holborn-bridge, as if proceeding from Fleet-market. Several persons went to ascertain the cause, when near the end towards Holborn, they saw a female, very genteelly dressed, with streams of blood flowing from her. On being questioned, she, as well as she was able, stated, that her name was Martha James, and that she lived at No. 4, Peter-street, Clerkenwell. Just before she called out, she was accosted by a tall man, dressed genteelly, who endeavoured to persuade her to have something to drink, and upon her refusing, he forcibly carried her where she then stood, and after using her in a shameful manner, he, with a sharp instrument, inflicted a wound, and then ran off. The poor creature was assisted to St. Bartholomew's hospital, where, on examination, a stab about half an inch in length, and of the same depth, was found on the right side of the abdomen.

On Sunday afternoon, as a Gentleman, accompanied by a Lady, was driving a spirited horse in a gig along the New-road, near the Regent's park, the animal suddenly took fright, and ran with great fury in the direction of Islington; on his arrival at the end of Tottenham-court-road, the gig came in contact with a hackney-coach, was overturned, and the Lady thrown with great violence between the leading and wheel horses of a four-horse coach, that was stopping on the opposite side of the way, but was providentially rescued by the spectators; her face and arms were severely cut, and she was otherwise much bruised: the Gentleman escaped with some slight bruises. The shock disengaged the horse, who continued his course, and actually cleared the toll-bar at Battle-bridge, which had been closed against him; the gig was nearly broken to pieces.

Duel.—A duel took place early on Sunday morning, between J. W—, Esq. and Capt. G—, when in the second exchange the former was struck on the groin, and at present lies in a dangerous condition. The dispute is said to have originated in a joke, succeeded by some satirical verses on a lady.

On Tuesday, John Mackay, a fine interesting boy, nine years of age, had his right arm torn and shattered, at the new Tay-street spinning-mill, in such a manner as to render immediate amputation above the elbow necessary. During the operation he behaved with the utmost composure; and when the operation was over, he asked, "Is it cuttit aff noo?" "Yes, my dear; its now over." "That's very gude; that's very gude." The boy was conveyed to the Infirmary, and is doing well. His mother, a poor widow, has several helpless children to provide for.—*Dundee Advertiser.*

The deplorable case of *Ellen Maxwell*, otherwise *Donelly* (mentioned in our last) has excited much attention. Various persons have afforded her relief. She was found at No. 25, Church-street, St. Giles's, with her husband, Donelly, in a state of great misery, there being no appearance of food of any kind. Donelly was without a coat, and his wife was almost naked. They showed their visitors up stairs to what they called "their apartment," in which there were no less than four beds (if beds they could be called) one of which this wretched pair and their child occupied, and the remainder are let to other occasional lodgers. It is utterly impossible to conceive a more vivid picture of human misery than this house and its inhabitants presented.

A few days since, while Mrs. Drax Grosvenor, of Acton-house, was proceeding on the Hammersmith-road, her groom was assaulted by a powerful man named Taylor, who attempted to get up behind the carriage. He was taken before Mr. Anderson, a Magistrate. All this greatly alarmed Mrs. Grosvenor, and while at the Magistrate's she fell into a fit, became convulsed, and was dead before medical aid could reach her.—Taylor was ordered to find bail to appear at the Sessions; and it seems that an indictment is contemplated against Mr. Smith, an inhabitant of Hammersmith, he having refused to aid in the seizure of Taylor when called upon by Mr. Graham the constable.—According to the law on this subject, a man is liable to fine and imprisonment for declining to assist in the execution of the laws, when called upon by the proper officers.

MARRIAGES.

On Monday, at Esher, the Rev. John Edgar Gibson, of Cobham, to Caroline, youngest daughter of Henry Swann, Esq. M. P. for Penryn.

On Thursday, in Kent, John Bayley, Esq. eldest son of the Hon. Mr. Justice Bayley, to Charlotte Mary, second daughter of the late John Minet Fector, Esq. of Dover.

DEATHS.

On the 21st inst. at Liverpool, after a dreadful illness of 22 weeks, Mary Ann, wife of Mr. William Lee, stage-manager of the Adelphi Theatre Royal.

On the 18th of May, at Madeira, where he had been for the benefit of his health, William, eldest son of John Wells, Esq. M. P. of Bickley-house, Kent.

On the 22nd inst. in Newman-street, Capt. Chas. Fletcher Champion.

On Monday, J. Hunter Blair, Esq. M. P. after a few days illness.

On Monday, at Thistle Grove, Little Chelsea, Georgina, wife of Mr. Oliver.

On the 21st inst. suddenly, in a fit of apoplexy, Mr. Wm. Baker, of Twickenham, aged 56.

On Tuesday evening, suddenly, Dr. Girdlestone, of Yarmouth, in his 65th year.

On Tuesday, at Kennington, Mr. Thomas Haines Green.

On the 26th inst., in Bishopsgate-street, in the 89th year of her age, Bridget, widow of the late Captain Samuel Burrows.

MISS TAYLOR'S NIGHT.—COBURG THEATRE.
Under the Patronage of the Dowager Lady GRESLEY.

MISS TAYLOR most respectfully announces that her BENEFIT is fixed for TUESDAY the 9th of July, when will be presented a variety of Entertainments, as will be expressed in future Bills and Advertisements.

Tickets to be had of Miss Taylor, No. 23, Great Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL-MALL.

THE GALLERY, with a Selection of Pictures of the Italian, Spanish, Flemish, and Dutch Schools, is open daily from Ten in the morning until Six in the evening.—Admittance 1s.—Catalogues 1s.

(By order) JOHN YOUNG, Keeper.

The delivery of the Impressions to the Subscribers to the Print from Mr. West's Picture, whose receipts are numbered from 1 to 300, will commence at the British Institution, upon payment of the remainder of the subscription, on Wednesday next, the 3rd of July, and continue every day till further notice, from 10 till 5.

EGYPTIAN TOMB, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—In consequence of some new Arrangements having taken place, the Public are respectfully informed, that the Exhibition of the Egyptian Tomb will continue OPEN a few days longer, previous to its final removal to the Continent.—Open from 10 till 5.—Admittance 1s.

COSMORAMA.—A CHANGE of Four Views will take place To-morrow in this Exhibition, which will then consist of a General View of Paris, one from le Pont Neuf, and one from the Pont Louis XVI. (in these three views are comprised all the most beautiful parts of Paris); a View of the Fall of the Stoubbach in Switzerland, and Views of Rouen, Mount Vesuvius, and Cape St. Vincent.—Though the Interior of St. Peter's has been seen by upwards of Sixty Thousand persons (of whom one-third have seen it many times over) it is the general wish that it should not yet be removed—Open from 11 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night. Admittance One Shilling.

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